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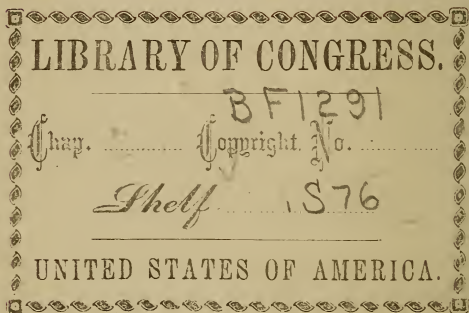
SPIRITUAL
INSTRUCTIONS.

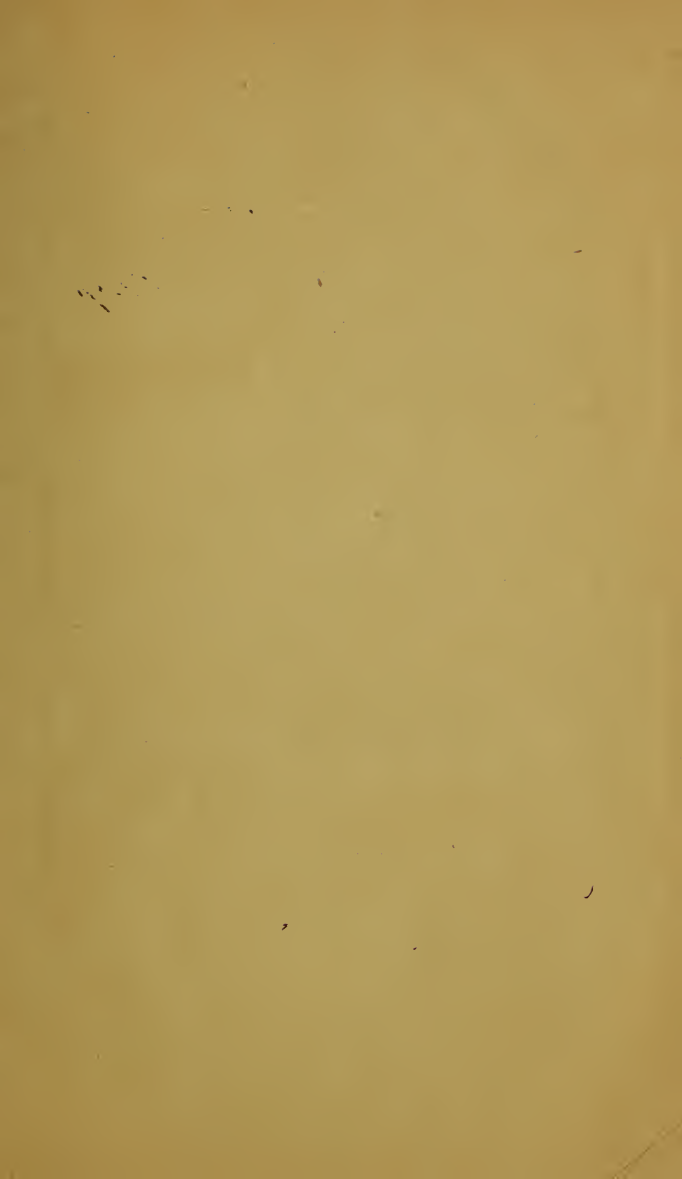
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Deposited July 12 1852

A. Compton

Profr





SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTIONS

RECEIVED AT THE

MEETINGS OF ONE OF THE CIRCLES

FORMED IN

PHILADELPHIA,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING THE

PHILOSOPHY OF SPIRITUAL INTERCOURSE.

28/2
PUBLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

HARMONIAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

PHILADELPHIA:

FOR SALE BY A. COMFORT, 295 MARKET STREET.

1852.

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INTRODUCTORY HISTORY.

THE numerous phenomena purporting to be "Spiritual Manifestations," which for the last few years have attracted the attention of many inquiring minds, induced some of the persons hereafter named, to meet together, and comply, as far as practicable, with the ostensible conditions requisite to witness them, and then investigate and ascertain, if possible, the cause.

They believed if these manifestations which were reported as having occurred, (and some of which a part of our members had witnessed,) were produced by spirits, they were in accordance with laws which God had established from the creation of the world, and which it was as much their duty to investigate, as that of any physical law whatever.

On the evening of April 2, 1851, they met, and organized what is known as a "Harmonial Circle." The circle continued to meet regularly each week, observing, as far as possible, the forms recommended by A. J. Davis, in his "Philosophy of Spiritual Intercourse," and the advice of those who had succeeded in obtaining the responses and manifestations in this city. This consisted of adopting such simple

means as were calculated to promote a harmonious calmness and concert of feeling ; such as singing, reading, and cheerful conversation, alternately ; selecting for these exercises subjects connected with the investigation, and avoiding discussions, especially those of a theological kind, as the circle was composed of persons entertaining various religious opinions. The members sat around a table, or tables placed together, and occasionally a complete circuit would be formed by joining hands ; sometimes with, and at other times without the metallic cord recommended by Davis.

Very few meetings of the circle had taken place, when it was perceived that one of our members was affected by the usual peculiar influences attending what are termed “ spiritual manifestations,” which strengthened our hopes of soon having a “ Medium” among us. These affections at first, consisted of but slight muscular and nervous disturbances, somewhat resembling the phenomena, attendant on the manipulations of mesmerism.

On the evening of the 22d of April, we met at the house of one of our members ; several of the first circle formed in this city, one of whom was a Medium, being present. On this occasion, the most striking evidence of the operations of an unseen power was perceptible. Soon after convening, the “ raps” were heard on the tables, and as had been the case at other meetings, where that Medium was

present, they were recognized as responses to the music, and opinions expressed ; they continued during the other exercises, and seemed to be intelligent expressions of approbation, or disapprobation of the sentiments contained in the hymns that were sung, or on articles read in the circle ; affirmative or negative answers were also given to a variety of oral and mental questions. But towards the close of the meeting, the most remarkable phenomena occurred. Tables placed in contact, separated some two feet ; the chair on which a lady of our Circle was sitting, receded from and approached the table several times, then moved in a semi-circle, into the space between the separated tables ; they closed on the chair with considerable force, then receded and released it, when it resumed its movements, and returned to the position which it originally occupied ; during these motions, no portion of the person or dress of the lady, touched any thing but the chair on which she sat. The largest table was moved with perfect silence and ease, as if supported on a pivot at its centre, and by request was pressed with much force against some of the company. It was moved several times to and fro, so that the motion was fully perceptible to all present, the room being well lighted. It was now proposed by some of the members of our Circle to diminish the light ; by this means, they had heard that on a previous evening, when the Medium who was then with us,

was having strong manifestations, many had seen flashes of electric light in the room ; but on this occasion, nothing of the kind was perceived, although the experiment was fairly tried. After the lights were diminished, the manifestations appeared to increase in strength.

It should here be stated, that a number of our Circle were at this time open skeptics, in regard to all that purported to be "Spiritual Manifestations," and their testimony cannot be invalidated on the ground of their superstitions, or prejudices respecting them ; and all were satisfied that there was no deception practised.

There was therefore but one conclusion to be arrived at, viz., that these effects were produced by an invisible and unknown agency ; what that agency was, we felt, if possible, more anxious than ever to ascertain ; and we entered with renewed earnestness on the investigation.

The development of our first Medium now became more rapid, and on the evening of April 28th, we received a communication through her. In the early part of this meeting, she passed into the magnetic sleep, and on awaking, was more than usually exercised ; her hand being moved with great rapidity, it was proposed that the letters of the alphabet be drawn upon a blank sheet of paper, and given to her, which was done. Her finger was immediately directed to the different letters, and a communication was in that way spelled out.

From this time forward, we continued to receive communications at almost every meeting, but many of them were of a private nature, and would not interest the general reader ; we, therefore, do not make them public, as the directions we have received respecting this publication, do not call for any such.

The development of our second Medium was in the meantime going on. She was influenced in a somewhat similar, though more remarkable manner than the first.

We were assured, in the communications received, that this preparatory discipline was necessary, in order that the spirits might obtain entire control over them. The first communication through her was received on the 25th of May, by means of the alphabet card, the same as through the first Medium. Several of our number have experienced peculiar sensations, which purport to be produced by the spirits of their departed friends, who say they are enabled to approach and influence them through an electric condition of the system. One only besides the two already mentioned, has become sufficiently developed to communicate ; this third Medium, though at times powerfully affected, has made (from not passively submitting to the influence,) but little progress. Most of the communications we have obtained were received through the card : some few were written by the Mediums, and

occasionally they have uttered their impressions in a low tone of voice. In the last mentioned mode, they seem to be more under the influence of the power that governs them, than in the two former.

The spelling would be frequently carried on while the Medium's eyes were closed, and if the card was reversed by us without her knowledge, it seemed not to make the least pause or difficulty. Sometimes the words were spelled out and pronounced so rapidly, that the most expert penman could scarcely transfer them to paper.

Communications have been suspended in the midst of sentences, and again resumed, after the lapse of days and weeks; when all present had lost sight of, or forgotten the words and their connection. Interruptions were sometimes apparently occasioned by the minds of those present being concentrated on the Medium; but the moment they were diverted by music or any other attraction tending to harmonize, in which *all* participated, the finger would resume its task. With but few exceptions, we adhered to our rules of meeting in privacy. The presence of those who were strangers to our course of proceeding, and to the novelty of the manifestations, (especially when merely the gratification of an idle curiosity was their motive,) seemed to mar that harmony and unity of feeling and aspiration, on which the most clear and connected communications depend.

It may be stated here, that the Circle suspended

its regular meetings during the warm weather in the latter part of summer; and when in September they were resumed, some of the original members were prevented by other engagements from continuing with us; and others were admitted in their places. The Medium first developed, though retaining her interest, in consequence of pressing duties, has been prevented almost entirely attending the meetings.

For the purpose of varying our experiments, and if possible make the investigation more thorough, arrangements were made to meet in conjunction with another Circle; holding these "Union" meetings alternately with our own private one. Though these have been continued for several months, and up to this time; yet we are not aware that the combination of the electric or magnetic power of the two Circles, and the presence of several Mediums, make any material difference in the developments; except that two or more Mediums would be communicating at the same time on different subjects.

It is the opinion of some, that submitting to spiritual influence has an injurious effect on the health; but the Mediums of our Circle, as well as many others of this city, have experienced a decided improvement in their physical condition, since becoming members of Circles; we feel assured that no evil effects, either physical or mental, are ever produced by merely spiritual influence.

The Mediums of our Circle are not attended by physical manifestations, such as the moving of tables, chairs, &c., and we believe that the majority of those in this city, are of the same class ; it has been stated that there no longer exists a positive necessity for such demonstrations, as their purpose was chiefly that of directing attention to the subject.

After meeting in the manner described for some time, and receiving a considerable number of communications, (a selection from which will be found in the following pages,) we were called upon to change, in some measure, our mode of proceeding. Contrary to our settled policy, and anticipations of duty, and quite unexpected on the part of the Medium ; it was communicated that a committee should be appointed, to consist of persons selected from our own acquaintance ; to meet with us, as witnesses to the reception of communications, and who should be willing to have their names published as such. This order impressed the Circle, including the Medium, with not a little anxiety as to its results ; but we resolved to comply, and await the issue.

Accordingly a committee was formed, and they first met on January 30th ; they continued to attend our meetings on each successive Friday evening. The only Medium communicating was the one here designated as the second.

On the evening of the 26th of March, the communication received, directed us to prepare a short

history of the Circle, and arrange the communications for publication; the profits (if any) to be placed in the hands of THE HARMONIAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, (a Society we have been directed to form to assist the suffering,) details of which will be found in the communications.

In accordance with the directions, this book has been prepared, and is now offered to the public. We present the matter as we received it. Many of the statements are new to us; with others, some of us have been more or less familiar; the Medium through whom the greater part of the communications were received, entertained opinions very different from those she often spelled out; she being a Baptist. The reader owes the source whence our authority was derived, all the benefit that may be derived: we are but the passive instruments. We hope the book may do good; and that it may induce others to form Circles, and from a pure love of truth, investigate the subject for themselves.

The following named persons are now, or have been at some time, members of the Circle :

AARON COMFORT,
CYRUS WHITSON,
SARAH TYNDALE,
SAMUEL SARTAIN,
MARY A. H. THOMAS,
REBECCA B. THOMAS,
PRISCILLA G. THOMAS,
T. ELWOOD LONGSHORE,
HANNAH E. LONGSHORE,
ANNA LONGSHORE,
HENRY PAIST,
PASCHAL COGGINS,
MARY COGGINS,
CHARLES B. FOSTER,
ANNA FOSTER,
ISAAC BARBER,
JAMES TRUMAN,
NAOMI W. THOMAS,
MARMADUKE MOORE.

SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTIONS.

IN the preceding pages it is stated, that the communications received in the early part of our investigations were mostly of a private character, and would not interest the general reader ; still there are some answers to inquiries which we deem proper to insert, although some of them have appeared in print before.

Question. What shall the exercises of the circle be?

Answer. “ Read Davis’s Revelations and sing, and do not talk about the Medium, it interferes ; but enter into feeling with the exercises of the Medium, for you may be profited thereby.”

Q. Should we admit strangers into the circle ?

A. “ None, except the members of the family, where the Circle meet.”

Q. Some believe God and nature the same, is this the case ?

A. “ No ; God and nature are not the same God is the Creator ; all nature is his work. The creating power is not the thing created.”

Q. Are spirits generally acquainted with each other ?

A. "In the same sphere, most are. Spirits are not acquainted with each other in different spheres."

Q. Can spirits be in two places at the same time?

A. "Not as you understand it. They move as thought passes, and go where love calls."

Q. Are spirits conscious of events passing at a distance as well as near?

A. "If harmony unites them with the thought."

Q. Can spirits pass from one planet to another at pleasure?

A. "They pass through space; all the universe is visited by them."

Q. We have been told that no spirit has entered the spirit world higher than the second sphere, except Jesus, is it true?

A. "His was the only fully developed spirit that has ever passed from the earth."

Q. What spirit is now influencing the Medium?

A. "It is the spirit of her father."

Q. Why cannot other members of the Circle be operated upon?

A. "Observe well what I tell you. We can communicate only through those whose electric condition enables us to manifest ourselves. This condition is produced by your becoming passive and submitting to the influence of spirits. This you have not been willing to do; some of you fear us. Come in confidence to us, fearing no evil; this must be your condition before we can approach you."

Q. Does the opinion of persons seeking information or asking questions have any influence in the answer?

A. "Yes, in some cases."

Q. Were all angels once men?

A. "Some have been, others are spiritual only, they are not of the earth."

Q. Are our guardian spirits those who loved us when on earth?

A. "Not in all cases, but where the most harmony exists in spirit."

Q. Will you give me satisfactory evidence that you are good spirits?

A. "When you cease to believe in bad spirits. When spirits appear evil it is the only way to bring some persons to a condition to be influenced, and ultimately believe, and in the end will be for their good."

Q. Do you know our names, ages, &c.?

A. "When we harmonize with you we perceive all the conditions of your existence."

Q. Are our guardian spirits ever changed?

A. "As you advance."

Q. What is it that impresses the preacher when he is what we term inspired to speak?

A. "God operates by means of the spirits who watch over them."

Q. Is there not access to the higher power independent of our guardian spirits?

A. "Yes."

Q. We are sometimes impressed that danger is near, and are thus enabled to shun it. Is this impression produced by a law of nature, or is it from our guardian spirits?

A. "The spirits who watch over you perceive the danger surrounding you; and in some cases are enabled to impress you;—that alone. God governs through the spirits; you forget this truth."

Q. Then special providences are true?

A. "Yes, but only through the spirits."

Q. Can a lower order of spirits than the one now communicating, communicate more freely with us upon matters pertaining to the earth?

A. "Yes, more freely, but not so correctly."

Q. Why?

A. "They are too nearly allied to earth."

Q. We have been perplexed by different Mediums communicating apparently contradictory statements.

A. "They cannot perceive the truth. In some cases you cannot understand their reply."

Q. Why do you tell us to place confidence in you, if all cannot perceive the truth?

A. "You must judge all communication by the known laws which govern you. You must not depend upon the communications you receive, unless you can prove them to be true by truths already known."

Q. What evidence have we of this being spiritual communications?

A. "You know they are. Your own spirits are impressed of this truth. Education and fear prevent your perceiving it. Endeavour to enter the interior state, you can then perceive truth. Withdraw from the outer world. Let not your affections for the outward, darken your spiritual perceptions."

Q. Do spirits remember the past?

A. "The past is before us as a mirror, in which we perceive forms, especially of the good and true."

Q. Do you perceive the follies of your youth?

A. "Only dimly. The true and the good are in more glorious brightness, and thus in a measure obscure the rest."

Q. Can spirits perceive the evil thoughts and actions of those they loved on earth?

A. "No, not if they are wholly evil. Spirits can only perceive the thoughts where they fully harmonize. When man lives only for his temporal welfare, and does not cultivate his spirituality, his thoughts are not in all cases such as to be perceived by the spirits that watch over him, and he cannot be influenced by them. He lives too much by his outward perceptions. By the frequent violation of God's laws he darkens his spiritual perceptions. *Remember this.*"

Reply to a remark made during conversation:—

Answer. "When the *natural* death of the body

occurs, it is caused by the spirit gradually withdrawing from the body; but few such deaths occur. When the body is oppressed by disease, the spirit is forced to leave it. When the death is *natural*, there is not the least suffering; violation of the laws which God has established, alone produces suffering."

Question. Has man ever lived more than five hundred of our years?

A. "Yes."

Q. Could he now, if he should live in accordance with the laws of nature?

A. "No. His spirit is more developed than at that time."

Q. Has his material organization degenerated since that time?

A. "No, it is more perfected?"

Q. Has the physical condition of the earth improved?

A. "Yes."

Q. Will the earth ever be destroyed?

A. "No, it will pass through many changes before it will become in a degree perfected; these changes will be more gradual than those which occurred in past ages."

During our investigations, many incidents occurred similar in character to the following, that appeared to us strong evidence, that the communications emanated from the source they purported to.

J. C., when in a quiet meditating state of mind, thought he saw a female sitting on a beautiful green bank, with her head resting on her hand, looking sorrowful; he felt great compassion for her, and advanced and embraced her, she then vanished from his sight. He was impressed that it was his wife, who had been dead many years. He did not mention the occurrence to any one, except the writer. A few days after, he inquired through a Medium if the spirit of his wife was present.

A. "Yes."

Q. Will thee communicate?

A. "Yes. Years have passed since my spirit left the flesh, yet I have often been with thee, and those I love in the flesh; you have oftentimes felt my presence; my spirit joys to communicate thus freely with thee; strive to feel my presence, it will fill thy mind with holy calmness; sweet harmony ever binds the spirits of those who truly harmonize on earth. Love binds us to those we have loved on earth. We are appointed to watch over them. This is a law of God's."

Q. A few days since, I thought I saw thee sitting on a green bank, with thy head resting on thy hand looking sorrowful: was it thee that appeared to me?

A. "Not sorrowful."

Q. Then it was thee?

A. "Yes."

Q. Now if it was thee that I did see, will thee tell me what followed ?

A. "Thee thought I mourned, thou didst advance in spirit toward me ; our spirits embraced each other, light enveloped me, I passed from thy sight."

J. C. remarked, that he remained a widower about three years, and then married again. The Medium then in a hurried manner, spelled out, "It was right to marry."

Q. For many years I feel that I have neglected thee, has it had a tendency to make thee unhappy ?

A. "No, where we cannot approach you, we do not perceive you, we are never unhappy."

Q. Will thee describe thy passage to the spirit land ?

A. "When the spirit leaves the flesh, it is joined by the spirits that have been appointed to watch over it, through life."

Q. Are particular spirits appointed to watch over us ; is it a necessary law ?

A. "Yes, a necessary law."

Q. Will thee tell me what sphere thee entered, when thee went to the spirit land ?

A. "My spirit was in a degree developed when I left the body, but you cannot understand our condition. Different degrees of development only mark our difference in condition."

The first communication which we deem proper to publish, was received on the evening of the 7th

of June, 1851. It was given at the request of one of our members, and purported to be from the spirit of his uncle.

“My Dear Nephew,—You feel as if you would like to have something from me different from the other communications that have been made through Mediums; you must patiently wait the progress in this new mode of communication of spirit with spirit, though one may have escaped its tenement of clay to a higher, and more perfect existence. There is a beautiful correspondence throughout all the works of the creative intelligence, governed by unvarying laws, of which you know but little in your present condition; you do not see these correspondences as we perceive them, nor can you, in your present degree of development. Now through this new mode of communication, you may learn much concerning these laws, that will be greatly to your advantage, and enable you to exalt your spiritual state, so that you will harmonize in your various relations among each other. Man is an unity, and when any portion of the whole suffers spiritually or bodily, the whole feels the wrong; now this is a great truth that man must learn, and endeavor so to shape his laws as to embrace this important idea; thus when he tramples on a fellow-being, he injures his own feelings of right, as well as those of his brother. Mankind are the children of one common

father, and he loves them all with parental tenderness."

The following poetical communication was spelled out on the card, with much rapidity, by a Medium, who is utterly incapable of composing poetry when not under spiritual influence.

" Softly comes in twilight's hour
 Strains of music from above,
To the lovers in the bower,
 There confessing of their love.

Love's the link that binds together
 Minds congenial in their taste,
Thus uniting ne'er to sever,
 In this life, nor death's embrace.

When the prison door is opened,
 And the spirit soars away,
It's attracted to the sphere,
 Where congenial loved ones stay.

There united and uniting,
 On they ever go progressing,
Higher, purer, more exalted,
 Upward to the throne rejoicing.

And through life a richness giving,
 To all its scenes of toil and care,
Blending sunshine with the shading
 Which the chastened spirits wear.

And to every grade and station,
Comes this messenger of heaven,
Teaching this important lesson,
Love's the keystone of creation.

God is love, and he's our father,
Hence his children all inherit,
In some measure, less or greater,
Of his love, his crowning merit."

Received *September* 20, 1851.

"Light is at hand. Man in his present state has but commenced. (Here the communication was interrupted, but in a short time commenced thus,) Knowledge of the laws which govern his spiritual nature. Study the laws which govern the universe, and you will perceive that progress is the law which God has established throughout all things, both material and spiritual; until the highest degree of development of which they are capable, is attained. Man perceives and acknowledges this law in the material universe. He sees the acorn in obedience to it, bursting forth into life, and under the genial influence surrounding it, advancing steadily onward in its development, until it is seen perfected, in the outspreading branches of the full grown oak. Its highest perfection being then attained, it gradually returns again to its original elements, that other and more perfect forms may be generated therefrom. Thus, throughout innumerable ages, the materia

universe has been steadily advancing towards higher degrees of development. And now, oh man! seest thou not this law governs thy spiritual existence also! Then why doubt thine own immortality! All know full well, that the life in the flesh serves not to perfect their spiritual being. Else why these longings for more perfect knowledge. Study well thine own aspirations, and thou wilt doubt no longer the necessity of an unending eternity, to perfect thy spiritual development."

Received *September 25, 1851.*

"Man is now, it will be acknowledged, about passing from his lower, or animal nature, to his higher or spiritual nature.

"All war and oppression, are but the fruits of the animal nature, which fulfils its natural office when contributing to the existence of the physical being. Thus you perceive the lower animals manifest only, in their habits, the existence of the animal propensities; but in man it is otherwise; in him are united the two natures. His animal, being the lower, was the first to be developed.

"Thus, in former ages, being in the early stages of his development, he manifested the propensities of his lower nature. But some spirits, in all ages, have existed, who became early developed; and the aspirations for a higher and holier life, have been

common in ages past, ever serving to impress mankind with a knowledge of their higher destiny."

Question. What is the difference between instinct and spirit?

Answer. "Instinct is the faculty possessed by all the animal creation: which enables them to seek all that is required for their existence in the flesh. But it does not lead to a desire for future knowledge; or a wish for an eternal existence, which is the constant longing of the spirit in a pure state.

"All spirits that have not been prevented developing, by discordant influences, feel that a constant longing for a higher and holier state of existence is natural to all. This is not the case in instinct. One is required for the development of the animal life only: the other is destined for an unending existence.

"The spirit is an emanation of the Divine mind. In the early stages of its development, it can scarcely perceive its own aspirations."

Communication received *October 4, 1851.*

[While attending a meeting of another Circle, in reply to some remarks that were being read in A. J. Davis's Revelations.]

"As they advance, they cease to perceive the evils of the lower spheres. As the spirits advance to the higher states of perfection, they cease to be so powerfully influenced by the lower propensities.

Spirits in the flesh imagine that all the feelings which influence them are perceived, and in some cases deeply affect the spirits that have passed to the spirit home. But this is not the case: they are not affected by the evil which exists in spirits less developed. This is a truth that all should remember.

“When the more highly developed spirits in the flesh, feel through benevolence, which is one of the highest attributes of the spirit, sympathy for the suffering, the spirits in the higher spheres, perceive through them, the circumstances which impress them; and in such cases, sometimes, are conscious of the evils which are the cause of suffering. But remember, we only perceive such cases through the higher attributes of the spirit; we cannot harmonize with evil; or in other words, the lower propensities of the animal nature: therefore, we cannot perceive their thoughts.”

Received *October 7*, 1851.

“You need not feel yourselves called upon to make any efforts to convince minds which appear unwilling to acknowledge truth. As we have told you, in time, all will be convinced. Have confidence in what you receive from us. It is not our mission to assist you in your temporal affairs; in some cases, however, we are enabled to do so, when pure love is the motive which actuates you.

“Mankind need not expect to advance rapidly in spiritual development, while they live so completely for their advancement in worldly interests. Let your aim be to live for your spiritual advancement, that you may be prepared for a higher and holier life. Let Jesus ever be your guide and example. His was a fully developed spirit.”

[Here some remarks were made by some of the members of the Circle, with regard to the Bible, when the following was communicated :]

“All truths harmonize, but all the statements in the Bible are not correct.”

Question. Will the Bible be more revered in future?

Answer. “The Bible, as a book, has for years past been too deeply revered by mankind. The truths therein contained will, as spiritual development progresses, become more fully understood and appreciated. A perfectly passive state of mind is required to enable us to impress you.”

The question was here asked, Whether the Medium was in a good condition? as she had been much agitated physically. When the following was received:

“She is in a good condition, mentally; but the electric spheres surrounding the strangers present, do not mingle with hers, this causes her physical excitement; she does not suffer therefrom.”

Received *October* 11th.

“Again in love we greet you! Our teachings should more deeply impress you, when we speak to you of your spirits’ destiny. It is to assist you in your advancement, that we communicate with you: you need not doubt our teachings. Many spirits have existed who, while in the flesh, labored ever for the spiritual advancement of mankind. But he who is known by the name of Jesus, was the most earnest laborer. The accounts which you have of his works, are in many cases incorrect. Pure love ever actuated him in all his intercourse with mankind. Let him be to you in all things a guide. If you could come in faith, we could more readily influence you.”

“No, No, No! He was only mortal!” (was here spelled out, in reply to a hymn called “Coronation,” which was being sung; in which it crowns him Lord of all,) “God eternal reigneth, to him all majesty ascribe.”

Question. Did the body of Christ arise after death?

Answer. “His body was but mortal; it returned again to dust.”

Q. Did he not appear to his disciples?

A. “He returned in spirit to comfort and cheer his followers; in that way only he appeared again to mankind. He did not say it was his mortal

body. In the fullness of his love, was he superior to his brethren."

Q. Was Swedenborg inspired by God to write?

A. "Spirits communicated freely with him, but his own mind was too deeply impressed with the teachings of the leaders in the Church, as they term it, to be at all times clearly impressed."

Q. Do Swedenborg and A. J. Davis agree in their theology?

A. "Davis's mind was more free from the influences of other teachers."

Q. At the time Davis dictated his Revelations, was he under the influence of those around him?

A. "His spirit was in clearness of perception, far in advance of them."

Q. Did the spirits of Mrs. C. and A. J. Davis converse together a few days since, she being in this city and he in the east?

A. "Cannot tell whether such was the case in that particular instance, but spirits can communicate together while in the flesh, although their bodies may be distant from each other."

Q. Do spirits see things on earth as we see them?

A. "We perceive all things where harmony unites us."

Q. Do you perceive them through our minds?

A. "We perceive them independent of you."

Q. Have spirits a knowledge of the ultimate state to which man will arrive on earth?

A. "He will progress until his spiritual being is so fully developed, as to approach so nearly to a spiritual existence, as scarcely to perceive its changing into the state which it now does, by passing through what is called death."

[Communicated to a lady who wished to know whether the spirit of her sister was present.]

"When holy love fills your minds for the loved ones who have passed to the spirit-home, their spirits are drawn by that love to mingle with yours; thus it is, that love draws them to watch over and guard you."

October 15, 1851.

One of our members had buried an infant brother this day. He was absent, and the subject had not particularly attracted the attention of the Circle, or awakened our sympathies to any extent. We were, therefore, conscious that the condition of our minds had no influence in producing the following communication.

"Children abide in the truth. Know ye not God loveth all his works? Why then should suffering be the portion of so many of his intelligent creatures, while in the flesh? The blossom in the process of development may be blasted, and yet the parent plant still appear to flourish. But know ye, even one failure in the perfect development of the

blossom is an evidence of disease. Thus, throughout the human family, one case of suffering is an evidence of imperfect health in the social organization. When the lower animals suffer, man seeks to ascertain the cause thereof; but he witnesseth the sufferings of his fellow-man, and wonders not thereat. He calmly labours on for his own individual advancement. This should not be; all should strive to ascertain the cause of this disease in the social body. Could man more fully know himself, then would physical suffering decrease. Strive then to study well the laws which govern your physical organization," (one of the members remarked: I wonder why they speak so much about suffering, this evening). "Know ye not that one of your band is suffering? The blossom should not have been thus early blasted. It is not in accordance with the laws which God has established, for a spirit which exists in the flesh to be forced therefrom until the fullest development of which it is capable, while in the body, is attained. In the case alluded to, the physical being could no longer perform its functions. It could not overcome the impurities surrounding it. Disease existed in the atmosphere."

Q. Does the communication refer to S— S— and his little brother, who he buried this day?

A. "Yes."

Q. Did the spirit communicating see the spirit of the child?

A. "We joined the band that bore the infant spirit home."

Q. What spirits composed that band?

A. "We cannot tell. We must perceive through the mind of the Medium or some one with whom we can fully harmonize."

Q. Then you cannot give their names?

A. "Not the name; *that is not a spirit's attribute.*"

"Man cannot rapidly advance in his development while his social organization is so imperfect. He must have more love for his kind, he must not live so much for himself."

Q. What shall we do to improve society?

A. "Let each fulfill the duty which he feels to be his. Before the human mind can perceive clearly its duty, the physical organization must be free from suffering. Man's first duty is to know the laws which govern his physical being."

October 20, 1851.

"Humanity bids you labor for the suffering. Weep with those who weep; rejoice with those who rejoice. Let all your sympathies be ever active. It is God's law that each spirit should influence the development of spirit. Love to God is the highest and holiest attribute of spirit. Love to man, is the highest duty of man, while dwelling in the flesh. Remember you should, if you desire to attain a

high degree of development spiritually, cultivate the two attributes alluded to. Forgive the erring. All evil, or sin, as you term it, is, as you know, only a want of spiritual development; then why should you condemn those who err? Labor, rather, to assist their advancement. Study well the cause of suffering, and fail not to perform the duty which appears to be yours. Remember this, and fail not to obey."

Q. Was it right for those colored persons at Christiana to resist being taken into slavery?

A. "Yes, but not unto death."

Q. Is non-resistance, as taught by Jesus, correct?

A. "Yes. Resistance to evil is one of the animal instincts. God has established laws which all should obey. While in the lower, or animal state, this instinct is the most powerful. As man passes to the higher state, his affection for the flesh is less strong; thus it was with Jesus; he knew that it was not possible for mankind, in the state of development they were then in, to overcome the instinct of self-preservation. All spirits have the power to influence each other, but those in the flesh cannot influence each other as powerfully as those who have passed to the spirit-home.

October 25, 1851.

A desire being expressed by some of the mem-

bers to have physical manifestations, the following was received.

“Abide in faith, nothing doubting; but remember this is your portion.”

Question. Should we not endeavor to obtain raps?

Answer. “Seek rather to learn the will of God.”

Q. What is required to render our communications more free?

A. “More faith in the Medium. We cannot readily impress her. She cannot be the Medium of rappings; her electric condition is not favorable; others of your number may be.”

Q. Do spirits, in the spirit world make use of any kind of nourishment?

A. “Nourishment they require, but not of a material kind. Your meat and your drink serves to develop your physical body, and is material. Ours is to learn the will of God. This is our meat and our drink. Constantly we are advancing in spiritual growth. The principle of life which exists in nature is ours. Material we are not, yet we can, by an electric combination, which is material, render ourselves visible to the outward senses. We are not material. Is thought material?”

October 27, 1851.

“Prepare for new manifestation. If possible we will give you all you desire; but you must obey our

directions. You need not meet again for two weeks; in the mean time each one should seek our influence. You need not fear us. All who fear to be influenced by us should leave the Circle. The harmony cannot be as perfect as is required for other manifestations, while there is so much fear of us."

Question. Should strangers be admitted in the circle?

Answer. "If you desire only communication, all who wish may be admitted. Communications are to you the most important. Your object in seeking communication with us should be to learn your duty to God and man. You should not seek us out of idle curiosity. We come to assist you in your spiritual advancement. Our mission is not to amuse you. We come for your highest good; to teach you the way of salvation; for all should know the Lord God, from the least to the greatest."

Received at the house of a friend, *October 28.*

While the vision in the beginning of Davis's second volume of the *Harmonia* was being read, the following was communicated.

"Know ye, the shepherd still labors to guide you in the path of truth. Seek to obey the laws which are written upon the heart. Listen to his voice, oh man! and obey God's will. Hope! for the glory of eternal life is the portion of all men. Know, eternal joy is the portion of all the pure in heart.

Listen to the teachings of the spirits which are appointed to watch over you."

Question. Was there a flood known as Noah's flood?

Answer. "The waters covered all the earth. Thus it is recorded; so it appeared to the writer of those words; but it was not so, in reality. A great change then occurred upon the surface of the earth. It was the greatest change that has occurred since man has existed upon the earth. The destruction of human life was not, however, near so great as was supposed and believed, by the author of the account."

Q. Was there such a vessel as the ark built by a man named Noah?

A. "He who is known by the name of Noah did exist; and was preserved by entering a vessel, so were many others."

Q. Did he take with him all kinds of animals?

A. "No, not for the purpose of preserving them; some animals were in the vessel."

Q. How long was Noah in building the ark?

A. "He did not build it: such vessels were common at that time; others were saved in the same manner."

Q. Is it possible for spirits to heal diseases without the aid of medicine?

A. "Yes, Jesus healed many by the power of his will. All will is magnetic."

Some remarks were made respecting a lady who could tell correctly the character of persons by holding their compositions to her forehead; and also the peculiar feelings under which they were written—when the following was received.

“We have told you, all will is magnetic; every thought carries its impress with it; and can never be effaced. All who are highly susceptible to magnetic influence can perceive the thoughts that were felt at the time they were expressed.”

Some remarks were made by a clergyman in a sermon preached Nov. 2, which conveyed to the mind of a Medium present, the idea that he believed the only evidence of the future existence of the spirit, was the desire which is felt for immortality. While listening she was much influenced; and after returning home, the following was received.

“It is not true, that a knowledge of the existence of the spirit after death depends only on the impressions in the mind; but in all ages, spirits have communicated with mankind through their outward senses. The Bible gives many correct accounts of spiritual presence. All may be convinced of the actual existence of the spirits of their departed friends, whom they have loved: if they would but yield to their influence. At the time of Jesus’s existence in the flesh, spiritual communications were more generally believed in than at the present day;

few intelligent minds at that day among the Jewish nation, doubted the future existence of the spirit.

“One of the principal reasons why spiritual communications are less frequent than in former ages, is, the great fear that is felt of us. This fear was chiefly excited by the influence of the teachers in the church, by their inculcating in the minds of many, a superstitious dread of us. They knew full well that minds left free to hold communion with their God, through the way of his appointing, would clearly perceive, and totally reject all the errors in their teachings. Thus, for many years, have the minds of men been subjected to unfavorable influences; until, at length, faith seemed almost to be banished from the world; and the doctrine of materialism, as it is termed, was rapidly being received by mankind.”

The next evening there was a Circle formed, for the benefit of a physician, who wished some advice in regard to his health, when, to the surprise of all present, the former communication was continued as follows.

“He feared to express, faithfully, his own convictions of truth; he does not doubt our communications with mankind; he himself has had other evidence of our existence than those that he acknowledges his belief in; he fears us, or we could readily influence him; at times spirits can, even now, impress him. Tell him we know his thoughts;

he is highly developed. Tell him to seek us. If he would be true to God he must not fear the world." [Here the remark was made by one present, that he was not afraid. The reply was,] "Yes, he is not free from fear; none are; Jesus only lived above the world. God loves a willing spirit. Watch and pray, lest at any time you yield to the fear of the world. God calls him, and he must obey, fear not."

November 13.

[Communication in reply to an invitation received from another Circle, to meet with them occasionally.]

"Harmony, you have been told, should ever unite you. Fear not to unite with those who are seeking to know the truth: you may mutually benefit each other. If discord should enter your midst, seek to bring it into harmony by the power of love. Be firm in your own faith: yet be passive, and seek to know the will of God, let this ever be your aim; by this alone, can you hope to advance rapidly in your development: let your aim ever be to live to the glory of God. When you meet with others, you must not allow yourselves to doubt, if discord should be apparent in the communication you receive, for all spirits do not perceive clearly. We can speak to you only of the glory of God; of your duty to mankind, your own destiny, and of

eternal life. My spirit is filled with the beauty and holiness of the God who reigneth in holiness.

“Let thy voice, oh man! be heard in uttering praise and thanksgiving to him. Oh could you but know the unbounded love which constantly surrounds you!”

Question. Should we argue with those who ridicule spiritual communications?

Answer. “Tell freely to all the foundation of your faith: but labor not to convince those who, having the light, see not, for as yet they cannot perceive the truth: have faith that all will be convinced.”

November 16, 1851.

“Strangers should always endeavor to keep their minds as much as possible from the Medium; the magnetic essence existing in them, influences the electric sphere surrounding the Medium, and causes the strong physical effects of which she complains; it does not injure her, but she dreads it, and it prevents her mind being in a state sufficiently passive for us to influence her readily.”

[Here the Medium went into a deeper state; her eyes were closed, and she commenced speaking in a low tone of voice.]

“Be humble, and bow thyself, oh man! in deep humility; knowing that even yet thou knowest not thyself; even thy own thoughts are not understood

by thee ; words are even uttered by thee when thou knowest not their import. Why wonderest thou ! Be humble, and learn of us, seeing as yet thou knowest not thyself. Yet joy for thee, oh man ! who art created in the image of the Eternal. Immortal life is thine inheritance. Be not cast down by earthly sufferings, they cannot destroy the immortal spirit. Speak no more at this time."

(The Medium now opened her eyes and continued to communicate with the card.)

Question. Should we look to a higher source than the spirits for advice ?

Answer. " Yes, ask of God. Bright and beautiful shall be the scenes that will become visible to thee, if thou wilt yield thyself to our influence. But remember to keep thy heart pure before God."

Q. Would it be right for a friend present to go to-morrow to meet in argument a man who intends to attack spiritual philosophy ?

A. " No, let not thy tongue be given to argument ; but let thy life be a shining light, convincing all of the fullness of thy faith."

November 19.

" You know that undeveloped spirits perceive not the truth as it is in God. This, although it is not the cause of actual suffering, is a condition which prevents high enjoyment. It is not true that all spirits, in the spirit-world, harmonize as you under-

stand the term. Where truth exists, there only can be harmony ; where spirits are undeveloped, there cannot be light ; yet all spirits possess some truth ; that truth is an emanation from the eternal Father, though it be as a grain of mustard seed. They progress and develop until capable of perceiving all truth, rejoicing in that knowledge, and glorifying the God eternal. Hope therefore ; all spirits will be redeemed from error or ignorance. Jesus was, indeed, to mankind a redeemer ; for he taught the truths of the spirit life, he taught not the doctrine of eternal suffering ; but that spirits exist in different degrees of development ; that a more perfect knowledge of truth brought with it its reward of a higher happiness." [Here the Medium commenced speaking from impression.] "We would speak to you in words of truth. Jesus died for the truth, let him be loved by you as a teacher of truth. With him commenced the new dispensation. The intellect of mankind was then in a higher state of development than his spirituality.

"After the death of Jesus, the truths of eternal life began to interest mankind. The Jewish nation was more highly developed spiritually, than any nation then existing upon the earth. In all the changes that have occurred in the different ages of the world ; God hath been bringing about the spiritual elevation of the human family. Speak no more at this time."

Q. Was the account given in the Bible of the appearance of a hand-writing on the wall, to be understood literally?

A. "Yes."

[Mental question by the Medium.] Was there a literal Dove seen resting upon Christ when he arose from the water?

A. "A dove was with them, an emblem of purity and truth. He was immersed, literally, by being buried, as they term it, beneath the water; the appearance of light and exceeding purity, was apparent to all, as he arose from the water: this his historians described as the appearance of a dove."

Q. Should we worship Jesus?

A. No, not worship *him*; to God alone bow thou. Jesus himself worshiped the eternal God. His spirit, we have told you, was highly developed; he was, in spirit, the Son of God."

Q. Is he a Mediator?

A. "Not as you understand it; he was a mediator only, as he taught the eternal truths of the Father's laws. His mission was not fully understood by his followers; some supposed they would be saved by virtue possessed by him, because they could not at that time perceive the truths of his teachings."

November 22.

"Cultivate social intercourse, it tends to produce harmony; this is what is required for the rapid pro-

gress of mankind. At present the inhabitants of the earth are in a state of too great individuality. The human spirit should be a harmonious whole: being bound together by the holy band of pure love. Then would that period spoken of have arrived. The time will yet be, when holy harmony will exist throughout all the universe. Mankind will exist upon the earth in a state of spiritual harmony. This state must yet arrive. Then will the earth be more perfect in its physical condition."

November 24.

"‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’ This command is to you all; know ye then what it meaneth? It is to teach the laws of God. This is to prepare the way of the Lord. First, then, oh man! see thou that thy mind be free from all uncharitableness. Pure love only is God’s will. Seek to purify thy own spirit; then will love to all the human family fill thy heart; for then wilt thou possess the spirit of the Father. All hatred and uncharitableness are of the earth, earthly; and belong only to the animal; they should not oppress the spirit. Again, we bid you strive to keep your spirits free from all unholy influences; for unless thou thyself be pure, how canst thou teach purity. Remember you are not called of God, that you should dwell in idleness, but each should seek to do the Father’s will."

November 28.

“Your efforts must be to increase harmony upon the earth. But your course must not be that of seeking to convert mankind by strenuous argument: do not contend with those who differ with you, for this would have the tendency to destroy the harmony which it should be your object to establish; urge not your own views, although you know them to be correct, for you know the course pursued by sectarians has ever been such as to create unkind feelings among those who could not perceive what they conceive to be true, as they did. You need not hope for the existence of pure love, while contentions upon subjects which deeply interest mankind continue to exist among them. For the rapid progress of the spirits’ development, the laws of spiritual progression must be obeyed. We desire you should endeavor to spread the truth of spiritual communications; but remember pure love should ever govern you; we would advise you not to indulge in argument, but to tell all freely your own convictions of truth.” (A fear was here expressed that the members would suffer in their business.) “You must expect to suffer in your temporal welfare; many will doubt you, but be firm, and you will eventually triumph.”

“Many have doubted the possibility of spirits in the flesh passing, in a measure, therefrom, and becoming present to those to whom they are attract-

ed by spiritual harmony, and yet the body still appear to be in the full enjoyment of life; but this state is not in opposition to the laws of spirit. The spirit is not the animal life; it may, in a measure, pass from the body, and yet all the animal functions continue their healthy action, so much so, that the body is not conscious of its absence; and the individual is conscious only of a strong affection for the spirits with whom it is at that time mingling. If the laws which govern spirit, and its intercourse with spirit, were more generally understood, the happiness of mankind would be much increased."

Question. If a spirit in the flesh were to be present to another spirit in the flesh, would that other spirit be conscious of its presence?

Answer. "In all cases wherein spirit mingles with spirit, each are in a measure affected."

December 2, 1851.

"Behold, oh man! true wisdom exists only with the Father. Hope not for perfect knowledge. The Father only is the embodiment of truth. Throughout eternity he will ever continue to reveal Himself to the human spirit, which is itself an emanation from him: as is also the universe. His spirit pervadeth all things. Nature alone is a true revelation of the Father. It is not possible for the human spirit to understand all truth as it is in the Father. Jesus himself, although he was developed as fully

as it is possible for spirit to become developed in the flesh ; knew not the fullness of truth as it exists in the Eternal. New beauties, and new truths, are ever unfolding even to him. If man would learn truth, he must seek to be in harmony with himself, he must obey, as far as is possible with him, the laws which govern both his spirit and his body. Cultivate love to the Father, then wilt thou, oh man ! learn to know his will, and fulfil his laws. Love, and love only, is the spirit's nourishment ; it cannot progress or become development until it learns to dwell in love. The intellect may be highly cultivated, and yet the spirit still remain in darkness, for love only is the true light.

“ With thee, oh man ! who art loved of the Father, we would seek to reason ; we would urge upon thee thy duty to thyself and thy God. Wouldst thou but seek to know thy duty, and live in accordance with the laws of thy being, then would sin and suffering cease amongst you.”

December 6.

[Received in reply to some passages being read in Davis's Harmonia.] “ Oh man ! could thy spirit but be filled with the love which it is the Father's will that thou shouldst feel for thy fellow, then would such scenes of suffering cease upon the earth. Remember, we have repeatedly told you, that God wills not the suffering of any of his crea-

tures; and that all suffering is in violation of his laws. Humanity, therefore, would ever induce you to labor for the advancement of your fellow beings, do not deem it possible for suffering to exist in your midst, and you not be individually affected by it. God has so established his laws, that one member of the human family cannot suffer, and each individual member not be affected. Labor, then, oh man! labor with true earnestness for the redemption of thy fellow man from sin and suffering; strive to assist in bringing about the advancement of the race. It is not the Father's will you should dwell in idleness; we have urged upon you your duties to each other. This is our mission.

“In holiness, purity and love, you should dwell together. Strive to cultivate love to the Father Almighty. Pure love to God will ever induce love to man.

“Let your minds be ever filled with an earnest desire to be instructed in the truth, as it exists in God. Let this be your object in seeking communion with us; then will your spirits steadily advance in their development.

“My daughter, fear not to mingle freely with the world; we have before given thee advice, with regard to thy course upon this subject; we have told thee, thou must not fear the effects of meeting with those who are seeking to investigate truth; meeting

with them will have the effect of lessening prejudice. Have pure love to all ; it matters not under what circumstances they are found ; if they even be deeply imbued with sin (as a low state of development is termed) ; for thou knowest all are liable to err. Rejoice that thy lot has been cast in a state which lifts thee above the temptations of the lower propensities of the animal nature. But be not exalted by the thought ; remember, rather, to thank the God of mercy, in deep humility. Until this can be the state of thy mind, thou canst not perceive clearly the beauties which surround thee."

Dec. 9, 1851.

Comments on a passage being read in one of Davis's works.

"All should be strong. True strength exists in perfect love ; let all strive to become strong. All could, if they would but examine themselves, know the power of true love to subdue the evil existing in them ; or, in other words, of developing the higher attributes of their spirit. If mankind could fully appreciate the power of love, they would feel the necessity of cultivating perfect love in themselves. We so frequently speak to you of the power of love, because we perceive you are not sufficiently impressed by its power.

"If all could but appreciate the intimate connection of one spirit with another, they would then know

the necessity of cultivating in themselves the fullness of pure love to the Father, and perfect charity towards each other. It is the duty of all to forgive freely. Where love exists not, there cannot be perfect harmony. One bond unites all.

“We would now speak to you of your duty in regard to your associating yourselves together for the purpose of advancing the knowledge of spiritual existence amongst those with whom you mingle in society. We do not wish you to urge your views upon those who cannot yet perceive truth. But you should welcome all true inquirers; you need not fear to receive such amongst you. It is well to endeavor to induce all true minds to investigate this subject. When all become convinced of the truth of spiritual communications, mankind will be convinced of the necessity of living in harmony, one with another, if they wish to enjoy a high degree of happiness in the future life. The idea of the possibility of a spirit entering into a high state of spiritual happiness, when it has neglected its development while in the flesh, will no longer be believed; for all will then know that such a condition of the spirit cannot be enjoyed, but must be arrived at by a gradual advancement. It is as impossible for an undeveloped spirit, to enjoy the high happiness which is enjoyed by the highly developed spirits, as it would be for the physical body to become fully developed in all strength in a day.”

Dec. 13.

The company assembled were talking about the strong physical manifestations which at different times have been witnessed; when the following was received.

“Those physical manifestations should not be so strongly objected to; they have been of service in the cause. The manifestations spoken of in the Bible were, many of them, of the same nature. They, in all cases, have had the tendency of calling the attention of mankind to the subject of spiritual influence. Whilst we would urge upon you that you should feel a proper respect for all the different modes in which spirits have manifested themselves to spirits still existing in the flesh, at all ages of the world; yet we would urge you to strive to advance, and not desire to look back, but strive to obtain higher and higher communications.

“All highly developed spirits, who are capable of communicating with you, are, in many cases, prevented doing so, on account of the constant desire of some minds to return again to old things. Keep constantly in your minds a desire to obtain a knowledge of the laws of the Eternal God, be they either those of matter or spirit. We have told you your first duty is to cultivate love to God. This is the first and greatest commandment: the second is like unto it, that you love one another. Man must not expect to rest from his labors; he must con-

stantly be aiming for high and higher states of existence ; he must constantly labor for the advancement of the human race, and seek to improve the social organization.

“ While the present condition of society continues, a rapid advancement in spirituality cannot be expected. He is not, in his present social condition, living in harmony with laws which govern him ; therefore a high state of happiness is not possible for him to enjoy. Before man can enjoy the fullness of temporal happiness, all his affections and sympathies must be active. Each should individually aim to develop, in himself, all the higher attributes of his nature.

“ God has not created any thing in vain ; he has not bestowed upon mankind any feeling which they should fear to exercise in accordance with the laws established for their government.”

Question. What becomes of the minds of inferior animals after death ?

Answer. “ The lower animals possess, in their present condition, only, what is termed by mankind, instinct. The affections they appear to possess, exist only with the term of the animal life. All the different instincts are only such as are required for the development of animal life. Instinct is not spirit. Spirit only exists throughout eternity. It is of God, and cannot die. The distinguishing attribute of spirit is, *love to God.*”

Q. Is chemical affinity identical with animal life?

A. "No. It is but a lower development of the law of affinity, which pervades nature, but a species of the same."

Q. Have the higher species of animals been developed out of the lower?

A. "You perceive throughout nature, that advancement is constantly going on; but each individual species exists only in one particular state; or, in other words, advances not beyond its original formation. You perceive the different varieties of the vegetable creation; each individual variety, as long as it exists, remains one and the same; but it may pass completely away, and a more perfect variety come into existence; but it is altogether independent of the former, and as long as it exists continues its independence; but it may be improved, as the conditions influencing its development, be favorable or otherwise. It, too, may pass away, and, from the substance existing in it, other and higher species may be supported; but they are all independent. Thus, from the decomposed portions of vegetable matter, man's animal nature may be supported and developed in strength; yet man cannot be said to be a species of vegetable."

Q. Were the lower forms of animals created before the higher?

A. “As the earth advanced in its development, different species of vegetable and animal creation were created; such as were suited to the existing state of the earth. In some cases many centuries passed between the creation of different species! The same laws are still in progress.

“We have said, different species were created; but it must not be understood that they were formed independent of established law. You know the earth itself, together with all the created universe, was brought into existence in accordance with law.”

Dec. 15.

A member of the Circle was reading in one of Davis's works when the following was communicated.

“This should be the course which all should pursue in seeking to obtain communication from spirits that have passed to the second sphere, as it is termed. All should seek to receive information direct from the Divine Mind; which can be obtained by asking with an earnest desire of obtaining true knowledge. Spirit is so constituted that spirit assists the development of spirit. We can communicate to you truths emanating from the Eternal. All spiritual impressions are produced by one spirit influencing another.”

The communication was here interrupted by the members of the Circle making inquiry, through the

Medium, whether they should admit a friend who had just called, when the following was received.

“It is not well for spirits in the flesh, when seeking information of us, to urge answers to questions of trifling import; it distracts the minds of the Mediums, and prevents them being in a state sufficiently passive to be readily impressed.

“Our minds are constantly filled with the exceeding glory of the Eternal God; and we can no longer communicate to you upon subjects of a temporal nature, any further than they have an important influence upon the development of spirit.

“Strive to cultivate an earnest desire to obtain true knowledge. If your spirits could become more clear, and be in a state to be readily impressed, you could then perceive more clearly the condition of spirits in the flesh, with whom you associate. You would then become so clear that you could perceive the spiritual state of each other. This is a state which all should strive to attain. Then would an earnest desire to cultivate purity of thought be felt by all.”

S. T. C., the second wife of J. C., ceased to breathe about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 16th of December, 1851. On the morning of the 19th the funeral company assembled. While sitting in silence, two mediums, who were in attendance, became so strongly influenced as to be induced to re-

tire to a private room; and there, one of them was influenced by the spirit of the first wife to write; and the other received a communication from the second wife, through the card, both operating at the same time. J. C., who is now at an advanced age, and who has, at several times, had spiritual visions, says he felt their presence so strongly that they seemed to be personally present.

Communication from second wife, *Dec. 19.*

“My Friends,—I have been anxious to communicate to you all. My spirit had not entirely left the body until about the tenth hour of the day; but I slept, and was unconscious of your mourning. When I awoke I perceived that I no longer dwelt in the flesh. I perceived that you mourned my absence, but my spirit rejoiced in its new life. Your mourning did not cause me suffering, for you mourned not as those without hope.

“Some of you felt that I was still present. I did not then desire to communicate with you. I perceived that I could not influence you; but now that I have the power to communicate with you, through the outward senses, I am attracted to do so. I perceive myself surrounded by many whom I had loved while in the flesh. With them I now joy to mingle, but I am still strongly attracted by those whom I have loved, who are still in the flesh. The spirit of one, I perceive, has already, in a great

measure, withdrawn from the body ; with him I can communicate in spirit, he feels my presence. It is to those whose spirits are still fully surrounded by the flesh, that I would at this time communicate. I would, if possible, convince them of my presence, while yet my body is with them. I would convince them that my spirit is in their midst, enjoying the fullness of spiritual life.

“Fear not the change, the new birth, for I rejoice in the glory and beauty which now surrounds me.

“Farewell, at present. I will again communicate to you.”

Written communication from the first wife.

“Husband, again art thou bereft ;
Again, the dear one whom thou hadst chosen
To be the loved companion of thy years
Hath departed ; departed, and left thee
Yet awhile, to struggle on amid
The cares and toils of earth ; to stem
The raging tide of error ; her pure spirit
Has uprisen, to dwell with those
Who, pure and blest, live in the courts of heaven,
And move but in the truth of God.
But, husband, be not gloomy in thy thoughts,
Be not bowed down with trouble ;
Think not of what thou hast been called upon
To suffer ; but let thy mind dwell calmly
On thoughts of immortality.
Those that are gone sleep not, they e’en now
Hover around thy head, to cheer and bless.

We are all with thee, our spirits seek
To hold sweet communion with thee.
Lift thy thoughts on high, that thou may'st be
In sweetest harmony with us.
Oh, what blissful songs of praise
Now sound throughout the arch of heaven ;
Another spirit tunes its harp of song
In unison with ours, to praise the Eternal One
Who ruleth over all the spheres of heaven,
And 'midst all scenes of earth. His wisdom
Is thankfully received by us,
And leads our minds to drink of that pure stream
Of living waters, which, like a fount,
Gushes from out his hand. Oh, what love !
What boundless goodness is discerned by us
In all thy trials ; they are ordained
With mercy infinite, by the Eternal One,
Who calleth men his children.
Look upward, then, that thou may'st learn
The beauteous lesson of thy present grief.
Prepare thyself to gather stores
Of richest wealth, wealth not of earth,
But wealth of purest gems of heaven.
Soon thou shalt be released, thy soul
Shall also wing its lofty flight,
Then shalt thou join us in a purer home
Than earth can e'er afford ; thou shalt then hold
Holier communion with our spirits ;
Thought shall then pass without obstruction
From our hearts to thine.
Listen my husband, while we hover near
'To whisper thee a sweet command of love—
This is its import—Sing thy praise loud
To Him who ordereth all things well.

Communicated from S. T. C., *Dec. 22, 1851.*

“Joy, joy, oh man ! the spirits dwell together in holiness and love. God reigneth over all. Suffering ceases with our withdrawal from the flesh. We marvel that we feared to enter our Father’s house. We almost wonder that we knew not of the joys that awaited us. Let not fear oppress your spirits, it serves to surround you with a veil of darkness. You cannot perceive the glory and beauty of the Father’s laws as they are manifest in your earthly home. Be free in spirit, and fear not the light. Bright glory surrounds you ; seek then to behold it ; let the holy light of love shed its radiance around your spirits. We now perceive the fullness of the power of love. I said I would again communicate, I now fulfil that promise. We are still strongly attracted to those we love in the flesh.”

Question. Will the spirit of my dear wife be so good as to tell me the cause of her sudden death ?

Answer. “My physical organization had, for many years, been powerfully affected by violation of the laws of nature. My lungs, as you are aware, had been, for many years, in an unhealthy state or condition, but that was not the immediate cause of my death. By exposure to cold my blood became in a more unhealthy state than usual, which centered, in its effects, upon my brain, which, in a few hours, had the effect to force my spirit from its earthly tenement. The condition of my lungs was

such, that my blood could not become freely purified. My brain being affected was the cause of my unconsciousness, which, in speaking of in a former communication to you, I termed sleep. Could you have seen my brain, from about the second hour of the day, you would have known that I could not long remain in the flesh.

“My dear husband and children: I would freely communicate with you. While I sojourned with you my spirit enjoyed a high degree of happiness. Harmony united us; we dwelt in peace. The bond of love which united us was, I perceive, as strong as that which unites spirits in the flesh, in the state of development to which we had arrived. I am still strongly attracted to you all; but I rejoice with exceeding joy in my spirit life. All now is purity and love. Strive ever to dwell in love; then may you, while yet in the flesh, know the holy beauty of the spirit-life. Farewell.”

Addressed to the Medium. *Dec. 26, 1851.*

“My daughter, fear not to communicate thy impressions.

“We have said you should forgive the erring, and assist the advancement of undeveloped spirits. But, my daughter, remember, in no case ever to permit hope for advancement in temporal interest to influence thee to associate thyself intimately with the false and dark in spirit; endeavor ever to keep thy-

self pure. Seek association only with those who are seeking to learn the will of God. Remember, each spirit influences the development of spirit; seek then the pure."

The remark was here made, that there were none pure—when the following was received.

"Many desire to advance in truth; their aspirations are pure. Endeavor ever to assist the development of the darkened spirit, but remember, in no case, ever to subject thyself to be controlled or influenced by them; fear not for thy temporal welfare. The aim of mankind should be to cultivate purity of thoughts; then will the spirit become clear and in the image of the Father.

"The animal nature must be brought into subjection; God must reign through his Spirit, which he has bestowed upon man.

"It is God's will that mankind should labor for the support of his animal nature; but he should not oppress his spirit by ever dwelling upon those wants. God's laws should be studied and obeyed. Mankind should learn that his temporal wants require not that he should be throughout his existence upon the earth, constantly laboring for his temporal welfare. God has made ample provision for the support of all his creatures. All who earnestly desire the advancement of the human race will seek to ascertain the cause of the inequality which is apparent in the dispensation of temporal blessings.

“Progression is the law of the created universe. Mankind will ever continue to progress, intellectually as well as spiritually. Advancement is apparent throughout the universe. In the arts and sciences, as well as in purity and love, the human race are gradually and steadily advancing. This is in accordance with law. No power in existence can overcome this law. Evil, you have been told, is but an undeveloped state of the animal nature; it is a negative condition; it has no positive power, which could enable it to overcome the established laws of the Eternal. You should seek to encourage advancement in all truth.”

Dec. 29, 1851.

“Time must cease, and space be annihilated, before a fullness of the knowledge of the Eternal can be comprehended by spirit. Throughout eternity, spirit must constantly progress in knowledge, love, and truth.”

Question. Is Davis correct in saying that the spirit land is divided into seven spheres?

Answer. “All the divisions in condition of spirit, spoken of by Davis, are imaginary. He perceived the different degrees of advancement to a state which he terms the seventh, beyond this he cannot yet advance. He has expressed his own impressions of truth in language which he perceived could be comprehended by minds to which he addressed

himself. He is more clear in spiritual perception than any one now living upon the earth.

“Jesus, and he who is known as the Evangelist John, were the most fully developed spirits that have ever existed upon the earth. They possessed the fullest love to God and man. Davis is now in a higher state of development than Paul attained while in the flesh. He loves the truth of God with a more perfect love. He perceives more clearly the Father’s laws. Moses was not highly developed. He taught many truths, and was in advance of spirits generally, at that time; still there were some, even at that day, who perceived truth more clearly than he did. His animal nature was not as fully developed as that of most men at the present day. It was in a more unhealthy condition. Perfect development indicates perfect health; and an unhealthy condition of any propensity is not a perfect development. When the animal is in the ascendancy, man is not highly developed. An excessive development is not a healthy development.”

Jan. 2, 1852.

“Guide, and be guided, but strive not to desire to force conviction upon yourselves or others. Seek, when you meet together, to learn the truth of God’s laws. You do not feel the necessity of seeking the true light. It is well when you are absent from the Circle, to read directions given by the spirits respect-

ing the condition of Mediums and formations of Circles; but, when spirits desire to communicate, seek to learn of them, the eternal laws of God, as they are capable of teaching them. Ask, in faith, of God, and he will grant us the power of instructing you in truth. Ask such questions as will assist you in your duties to each other. This is what, in the present state of society, is required of you. It is required that you should prepare the way of the Lord. It was not for naught that we were permitted to communicate to mankind, in the manner in which we have, for some time, been able to do."

Jan. 5, 1852.

"It is well, God reigneth in power; man must learn to recognize his power almighty. Be ye guided in truth. We would desire to instruct you in truth. Listen, then, to our teachings. Observe well what we now desire to communicate. In communicating to you we are attracted by congenial harmony. When spirits in the second sphere are wholly absorbed by love to God, they seek such Mediums to communicate through, whom they perceive to be developed in love to God. If they desire to communicate only of the wisdom of God, they seek those mediums who they perceive are highly developed in wisdom. If they desire to communicate respecting temporal matters, they seek those who are absorbed in the affections of the

flesh. There are few Mediums through whom they can communicate freely upon all subjects upon which communications are sought; still there are times when the affections of the Medium are more or less active. In Mediums possessing strong love to God, the temporal affections are, at times, so powerful, that spirits can readily communicate through them, upon temporal matters. You perceive it would be impossible for Mediums, when strongly influenced by one affection, to answer readily or correctly all questions prompted by another. When forming your Circles, therefore, it would be well for you to select Mediums of different developments, through whom to receive communications; so that all may be gratified by receiving answers to their questions. Welcome all who earnestly desire to acquire true knowledge; but those who desire to meet in membership with the Circle should meet regularly, if possible. By frequently meeting together, mental harmony is increased, which renders the conditions favorable for communicating. It is well for the different members to ask such questions as will enable them to receive light upon the laws which God has established for the government of his works. This will enable them to advance in true knowledge. This should be your object in seeking communion with us. If you obey our directions you will be enabled to obtain much important information respecting spiritual

existence. When you meet together, you should come with a desire to learn the truth of God. All should come with questions, seeking to learn the laws of matter and spirit; by that means you will be enabled to advance rapidly in the knowledge of truth. Obey our directions, and you will be benefited."

Jan. 9, 1852.

"Pray earnestly that you yield not to temptation. The mind, earnest in prayer, can be readily influenced in truth. Then can it be instructed in righteousness. Power will then be given to perceive evil. Pray earnestly to the Father and you will receive strength from on high. The spirit's aspirations are felt by the Father Almighty. Many minds seek of us the power to overcome, immediately, the existing evils in the world. They desire that we should now prevent all suffering and sin. If they could but perceive the laws which govern their spiritual and temporal advancement, they would know of a truth that the human spirit must ever labor; that advancement in all knowledge, as well as in the power of perceiving and obeying the true light, must be gained by earnest seeking and endeavoring to enter into close communion with the Father, by submitting unto his will, and learning of him, as he is revealed in nature, which is the work of his hands. Spirits have not the power to overcome evil

where the mind is in constant opposition to the laws of its nature."

It was known that the spirit communicating, while in the flesh, objected to paid ministry, which induced one of his children to ask the following question—

Is it right to listen to the teachings of ministers who are paid for preaching?

A. "Where truth is taught it is well for all to learn. Many perceive much truth without being impressed in all truth, which they should even now perceive. Yet many possess the power of instructing in truth. For a knowledge of spiritual laws, and a knowledge of God's perfection, you need not go beyond the light which enlighteneth every man who cometh into the world. Each spirit possesses, of itself, a witness of the Father; and to no man is it given to bestow upon another that which is already possessed from the Father."

Question. Is it true that the wise men were guided by a star to the birthplace of Jesus?

Answer. "The Jews had been expecting, for some time, the coming of one who should be enabled to instruct them in truth, as had been prophesied by some who were advanced in clearness of spiritual perception. Those whose occupation was that of tending sheep, were more spiritual than the generality of mankind; it was such as induced a

passive state of mind, and they loved to dwell upon the promise that had been given, with regard to the Messiah, whom they expected to descend to earth. Therefore they were ever watchful and readily impressed. Their guardian spirits, perceiving that Jesus was created under holy influences—more so than any being who has since existed—perceived that he would, when he entered the world, be in such a spiritual condition that he would be a teacher of mankind. They, therefore, impressed them on that truth, and even formed an electric combination, so as to guide them to his birthplace. Such instances of spiritual combination are not uncommon when they desire to impress the mind with an important truth.”

Q. Was the sword that was seen suspended over Jerusalem a symbol produced by spirits?

A. “ Yes, it was. They perceived that such influences were in operation which would cause the destruction of the city, if they were not changed ; and they made the manifestation spoken of for the purpose of impressing the minds of those in power, to induce a change in their course, and lead them to see truth and repent of their evil ways. It was not seen by the people generally, some only perceived it.”

Q. Will the visit of Kossuth to this country benefit mankind ?

•

A. "Yes. When we communicate with you again we will give you some important information on that subject."

It was playfully remarked to the Medium, "Oh, yes, thee wants to have time to prepare thyself"—when the communication continued—

"Lest you should doubt, we will endeavor to impress the Medium, although we perceive that she is wearied, and is no longer readily impressed.

"All created beings are brought into existence for a purpose. God doth not create any thing in vain. Mankind is now, as we have before told you, about passing from his lower, or animal, to his higher, or spiritual nature. In all changes which occur, either in mind or matter, strong convulsions are necessary. The minds that are in advance in knowledge, strive to influence in truth. Those that are in a darkened or undeveloped condition, will not yield, but exert their animal propensities in opposition. This produces convulsions. Kossuth possesses strong love toward mankind, but his love to God is not equal to his love for man. He rebels against the Father's laws. While he desires the advancement of his race, in temporal interest, he is not willing to abide the development of the spirit. He wishes to force a state which cannot yet exist. Yet he will be of advantage to mankind. But if his higher spiritual attributes were equally developed,

he would possess more perfect love both to God and man."

Q. "Was his motive in coming here for personal aggrandisement?"

A. "No. They are not for his personal advancement. Every spirit highly developed, in any one of the higher attributes of spirit, has a favorable influence upon the advancement of the human race."

Jan. 16, 1852.

"My children, we desire that you should come seeking to obtain knowledge of us. You should regard the time spent in your meetings of too great importance to be devoted to reading upon other subjects."

[One of the members had been reading in a newspaper.]

"It is well for you to read at other times; but when we desire to communicate to you, we wish you to ask information of us respecting the government of God. This is why we wish you to ask questions. We cannot, in all cases, perceive the desire of the mind of each individual.

"To-night we wish to give you some directions respecting your course. We come for the advantage of mankind. We desire that none should be ashamed to be found laboring in the cause of the advancement of the human race.

“The communications which you receive from us we desire should be made public. To-night we will give you some directions upon the subject. Select from amongst your acquaintance, fifteen, or, at least, twelve persons, of known intelligence and influence in the world, who will be willing to give the subject a candid investigation. Desire them to attend the Circle as frequently as possible. Be candid with them; acknowledge to them all the difficulties that you have labored under.

“We desire that they should each come prepared with questions by which they may be enabled to learn the laws of spiritual advancement and their duty to the human race. We are not able to communicate readily upon temporal matters. We are absorbed in dwelling upon the love and glory of the universal Father.

“In the mean time we desire that the Medium should not read any communications from spirits in the flesh, concerning spiritual development. Her reading should be of a general character. She should mingle freely with the world, but avoid conversing with others too freely upon this subject.

“We give these directions, that strangers may not feel that the Medium obtains her impressions from minds still existing in the flesh.

“The members of the Circle should endeavor to meet regularly, if possible.

“When we desire the publication of our commu-

nications to you, we will give you directions. Those who are willing to meet, as members of the Circle, should be willing to be known as members, by the public, for we shall require that their names be published to the world, as having witnessed the receiving of these communications."

Remarks were here made by one or two, expressing a delicacy about their names being published.

"None need fear, for we declare unto you God's truth. Still all should be fully persuaded of the truth, before they acknowledge themselves as believers. We do not require that all who witness the receiving of these communications should profess to believe in the truth of our declarations. The world must judge. We only come to reiterate again the truths that were taught by Jesus."

Question. Will not the presence of so many strangers make it difficult for the Medium to communicate?

Answer. "At first it will. They must meet often enough to become harmonious. Tell them of this difficulty."

Some remarks were made respecting whom to invite.

"We do not desire that you should select believers, but candid persons. Those of sufficient honesty and intelligence to be enabled to perceive truth readily."

Q. Should we invite a few at first, and thus gradually increase the number?

A. "All should come at the same time. Let them be received together. We will support her; she need not fear."

Q. Should the Circle meet occasionally select, after having invited the committee?

A. "No. All communications received by this Circle should be in their presence. You may meet as you have been accustomed to, with the other Circle."*

Q. Will it be in your power to give us some physical manifestations, such as flashes of light, to make a strong impression on the minds of the committee?

A. "No. But it is well for all to be convinced. We can operate only through mind: we cannot become sufficiently dense to manifest ourselves to the outward senses, unless we envelope the body."†

Jan. 19.

This evening there was a person in the Circle

* This was not complied with; circumstances were such as induced us to meet on several different occasions, to accommodate our friends.

† The spirit communicating states, it cannot become perceptible to the outward senses of any but those whom it has enveloped, and in the following communication it speaks of only having enveloped the present medium.

whose moral character rendered him so unharmonious that a portion of the Circle felt constrained to withdraw to another room, where the following was received.

“Jesus sat with publicans and sinners; yet he failed not to rebuke them when he perceived them determinedly dwelling in darkness. We would not have forced you from their midst, could we have rebuked them in another manner. Judas sat with the twelve. We perceived the shock to your spirit, and knew that we could not approach you while in that condition; we, therefore, could not have impressed the Medium. Although we have repeatedly told you to forgive the erring, yet we desire that you should strive ever to avoid the influence of the dark in spirit; strive to assist them when it is possible to do so, but ever avoid them, unless you can benefit them. Fear their influence; darkened spirits sometimes have the power to influence spirits still existing in the flesh. They are enabled to approach them through the affections of the flesh. When the spirit has withdrawn from the body it can no longer be influenced by spirits in a darkened state; *they* can only approach the spirit through the animal nature. For this reason we would urge the necessity of being ever watchful, and seeking to live in communion with God. By this means clear spirits will be attracted to watch over and guard you. Watch and pray, that you be not subject to

the influence of the will of the dark in spirit ; yet let pure charity ever influence you. Forgive freely all who sin."

Question. Can the spirit communicating explain to us how a person living here can *will* another person at a distance to do any thing they wish ?

Answer. All *will*, we have told you, is magnetic. The magnetic essence pervades the universe ; it is the medium through which the spirit communicates or influences spirit ; it is to spirit what the atmosphere is to sound. When the *will* is powerful it can strongly affect the magnetic medium, so as to be felt by those who are readily impressed. This is why spirits who have passed to the spirit world are enabled to impress spirits in the flesh, though they be surrounded by a great amount of material structure.

"We have before told you, that no amount of matter can prevent our impressing spirits, still existing in the flesh ; although it is not possible for spirits to make themselves manifest to the outward senses, without a proper condition of atmosphere. They can only become visible by an electric combination, which is a denser medium than that known as the magnetic essence, and does not so readily penetrate matter."

Jan. 21, 1852.

The Circle was conversing on the subject of se-

lecting the committee, when the communications commenced.

“We have told you to select persons of your own acquaintance. It is desirable that you select those of known intelligence, and of respectability, according to the judgment of the world.”

Question. Will the names of the committee be required to be published?

Answer. “The name of each member of the committee will be required to be made public. We, in the former communication, spoke only of the members of the Circle, because it appeared some of the members were not conscious of our desiring that their names should be published. We will, at your next meeting, give you all the advice you require, respecting the regulations to be adopted. We desire that you should bring such questions as will be the means of your receiving knowledge of the laws of God; his will respecting the human race; and the object of mankind’s existence upon the earth.”

Q. What did Jesus mean when he spoke about coming again in glory, &c.?

A. “He will again come in glory, and will bring all mankind unto him. He is now in your midst, seeking to be received by the human family. In glory and beauty will he again appear, but not in the flesh. He has not been fully received by mankind. His earthly body returned again to its original elements.”

Q. Was it not his material body that appeared to Thomas, when he told him to thrust his hand into his side?

A. "He appeared only in spirit. When the spirit has fully withdrawn from the flesh it cannot again return to it. Still, spirits have the power of appearing as in the flesh. Thus he appeared again unto his disciples. He did not tell them it was his flesh and blood."

Q. Was Lazarus raised from the dead?

A. "No earthly body was ever reanimated by the spirit after it had fully withdrawn therefrom."

Q. Does the spirit of Jesus preserve its individual identity?

A. "Yes. All spirits retain their identity throughout eternity. They advance toward the perfection of the Father, but are never absorbed by him. They remain independent and retain their individuality."

Q. Can spirits influence us at any time when they desire to do so?

A. "They can ever influence you if they could approach you; your condition only prevents them doing so. It does not require their electric presence to enable them to influence you. They impress you through the magnetic medium."

Q. Can spirits impress more than one at the same time?

A. "Yes, they may influence a number at the same time, if they fully harmonize."

Q. Can spirits impress mankind generally?

A. "We cannot impress the generality of mankind."

Q. Can spirits impress on temporal matters?

A. "We have told you that all spirits in the flesh have spirits who are appointed of God to watch over and protect them. When it is requisite to be impressed upon temporal matters, spirits, capable of perceiving and influencing them upon such subjects, can approach them; yet, if they have not enveloped them they cannot communicate through them."

Jan. 24.

Communication of Directions.

"When you meet with the committee you have obtained, we desire that the following rules be strictly adhered to.

"In the first place, endeavor, if possible, to have them all to meet at the same time. When you take your seats at the table, we desire that the members of the Circle sit near and opposite the Medium, that she may not be unfavorably influenced by the spheres of the strangers present. We have not called them together merely for the purpose of convincing them; but our object is, to communicate truths. We desire that they should witness the reception of them, and that they should state clearly, the manner in which they were received, to the

public. Time will enable us to convince mankind.

“To proceed with the directions respecting the rules to be observed in your Circle—

“We desire that you continue the custom of singing. It has the effect to subdue all mental excitement, and renders the condition of the Medium passive, and enables us to approach her, so as readily to impress her. With some Mediums this regulation would not be required; but in your Circle, we perceive it to have a favourable influence.

“If you read, you must only read Davis’s Spiritual Revelations. Read only on the subject of spiritual development. It is only upon the subject of the spiritual laws of God that we design communicating. We will freely communicate upon all the different spiritual manifestations that have been witnessed upon the earth.

“Respecting physical laws, we will not communicate without we perceive them to have an important influence upon the advancement of the spirit. We desire the committee to ask questions upon the subject we have named. We desire particularly that they should ask questions upon the character and mission of Jesus.

“We object to having other Mediums communicate in the Circle, than those we have influenced; but we do not object to their being present at your other Circles. Endeavor to call the committee together as soon as possible. Tell them your experience

respecting the effect produced by the exercise of the positive will power upon the Medium. It is desirable that she be not influenced by any will but that of the spirit which has enveloped her; for as yet, we cannot fully overcome the power of will, when she is approached through any of the outward senses.

“We have now given you all the most important particulars to be observed. If you desire to ask questions, address them to the mind of the Medium, and, if possible, we will perceive and answer them.”

Q. Should we refrain from discussions and debates during the sittings of the meetings?

A. “Yes. Endeavor to produce harmony. Care should be observed, in asking questions, that no confusion be produced. Meet together in cheerfulness, but avoid levity.”

Jan. 26, 1852.

“Peace—abide in peace!—Joy in the true light. Love—pure love—is the highest attribute of spirit. Hope not for high and holy joys unless the spirit abide in love. Before mankind can become fully developed in spirit they must possess pure love toward one another; for how can they love God, whom they have not seen, if they hate their brother, whom they have seen? Love to man, being a lower attribute than love to God, it must be the

first to be developed. The spirit that loves not the image of the Father, cannot love the Father with a perfect love.

“Hope not, therefore, that hatred of your kind can ever be forgiven you. The spirit must suffer for the want of light, while it dwells in the darkness of hatred and uncharitableness. The time is at hand, when mankind will be convinced that no sin against the light of the Spirit, which is pure love, can ever be forgiven; but the spirit must suffer the penalty thereof, which is darkness. Though it may advance, yet it feels the effect of the violation of the spirit’s law, for it cannot enter a high state of spiritual happiness if, while in the flesh, it dwells in darkness. If the spirit, while existing in the flesh, dwells in love, then may it know the joys of holy brightness, when it leaves the earthly body. But if it dwells in darkness, it cannot, when it first leaves the body, perceive the joyous light of love; it feels the effect of its darkness, which, although it is not a state of actual suffering, is one of but partial joy.”

Q. Do spirits receive knowledge by tuition or intuition?

A. “Knowledge, like a stream of living water, is ever flowing from the eternal throne, of which all may freely drink. The spirit, while it dwells in the flesh, is, from a love of the animal nature, often prevented from partaking. It is a law of God, that

all spirits assist the development of spirit. Spirit being an emanation from the Father, is the channel through which the stream of living water flows. Thus, where the love of the animal nature does not interfere, all knowledge is received, intuitively, through the appointed channel. We speak of spiritual knowledge; not of the laws of matter; that knowledge is obtained by the study of nature."

Q. What are Christ's existent and moral relations to the Infinite Father?

A. "Jesus was, as he repeatedly declared, while upon the earth, the Son of Man. He was, in spirit, the Son of the Eternal Father, beloved of him. In Jesus was pure love to man, and perfect love to the Father, fully developed. He is, therefore, more nearly allied to the Father than any spirit that has ever existed upon the earth; but his body was material; it was not of the Father, only as all matter is an existent condition of his universal essence. In spirit, he was an example to mankind. When we again communicate to you, which will be in the presence of the committee we have proposed,* we will explain to you his material perfection, and the cause of his superiority in love."

Communication given in reply to some question respecting the influence of manipulations in neuralgia.

A. "In all diseases of the nervous system, the

* The communications received in presence of the committee are placed together at the latter part of the book.

magnetic fluid existing in the system must be operated upon. By this alone can the diseased nervous system be benefited. Other remedies, such as are usually resorted to, cannot have any material effect. All diseases of the nerves are produced by an irregular flow of magnetic fluid. To restore the proper equilibrium must be the object in all efforts to restore healthy action. This may be done by one person, possessing strong magnetic power, coming in contact with the person suffering, and *willing* a proper action. If they are suffering, from an undue portion of the magnetic fluid in the system, (which can be ascertained by the symptoms they complain of,) if they suffer from a sensation of fullness and electric pains, then the system may be known to be surcharged. The operator should then make passes *from* the body, and upward. If the suffering is caused from a want of vital fluid, then the passes should be made downward. The operator, by an effort of his *will*, inducing a fuller supply, in bestowing sufficient to restore the equilibrium from his own person. But if the suffering is produced merely from a want of equal action, the galvanic battery would be sufficient to restore proper action. If the patient complains of drawing sensations through the nerves, it is produced from a want of a sufficient supply. If they complain merely of unpleasant sensations of either character spoken of, the suffering is produced from a want of proper action."

UNION CIRCLE.

Feb. 2, 1852.

“Spirits, when they first enter the spirit home, are, in a measure, influenced by the impressions they have imbibed while in the flesh. But a short time only is required to overcome their former impressions, and leave the spirit clear to perceive truth. All spirits, whatever may have been their previous opinions, perceive all the laws of God, as far as they are capable of perceiving them, clearly. All spirits, in the same degree of advancement, perceive the same laws. As they progress, new truths are constantly being unfolded to them. Thus, all who are capable of communicating with the human family, agree in their account of spiritual laws. Some spirits may be enabled to communicate more truths than others; but they all agree when they communicate upon the same subject.”

[Some remarks were here made, on the subject of spirits communicating different religious opinions.]

“Not if they have been in the spirit world sufficiently long to be freed of their former opinions. As far as they are capable of communicating, they give correct information. They may, at times, give their opinions of laws which they have not clearly perceived, but, if they be interrogated, they will freely acknowledge the information given to be only their *opinion*, not a clearly perceived truth.

It would be well, when receiving communications, to interrogate the spirits. You may receive false impressions from them, when they do not intend it; but they cannot, at such times, in many cases, correct the impression, although they perceive them to be incorrect. Many conditions exist, which prevent their doing so. In many cases, the Medium cannot be clearly impressed."

PRIVATE CIRCLE.

Feb. 3, 1852.

"Cultivate within yourselves, that high and holy love which will ever secure to all, full and perfect happiness; for it is the will of God that his creatures should dwell in love with each other. It is not possible for the human spirit, while it exists in the flesh, to enjoy the fulness of happiness which it can enjoy when it passes from the body. The spirit, while it exists in the flesh, may be oppressed and darkened by the conditions which surround it, and thereby be prevented developing. But, although while in the body, the spirit fails to fulfil the will of God, concerning it, yet, when released from the animal propensities, it will progress. It may be affected by the conditions in which it dwells while upon the earth. Despair should not oppress the spirit. All advance; still all should ever labor to cultivate the spiritual attributes while they exist in the flesh."

[After a pause of some time, the communication was continued.]

“Dwell in peace, but rejoice in hope. All spirits, when they pass from the body, are, for a long period of time, enabled to return again within the atmosphere of the earth, when they are attracted by the love of friends, whom they have loved while in the flesh; for love, where it exists, is a spiritual attribute, and has the power to attract the object of its love within its sphere, and thereby be impressed by it.

“As yet, few persons are developed in their electrical condition, so as to be operated upon in such a manner as to enable them to communicate; and the Mediums who are already developed cannot be approached by spirits generally. They are enabled only to communicate from those who are attracted to them by congenial harmony. Almost all spirits, now existing in the flesh, may receive communications from spirits whom they have loved; either by impression or by electric communication; if they would but seek their influence. This all should be encouraged to do.”

Q. Can highly developed spirits return again to earth?

A. “They cannot, after a period of time, return again to the earth, electrically. They may impress spirits, but they cannot become electrically visible, unless there be excessive attraction, which, in some

cases, has occurred. Still they can be enabled to impress spirits respecting the conditions of their being, while they existed in the flesh."

PRIVATE CIRCLE.

Feb. 4, 1852.

The following communication was particularly adapted to the condition of the Circle at the time.

"Avoid all anxiety. You need not fear the termination of the arrangements we have advised. We know what effect will be produced by our communications. All who are seeking to have communion with us will be blessed thereby. The time has now come when the attention of mankind will be called to the manifestations now being produced by spirits. These things must be; and no power existing upon the earth can prevent the advancement of the human spirit. Then fear not, but trust in faith, knowing that the light must shine in darkness; though as yet the darkness comprehends it not. The Father's promises fail not. Truth and righteousness will prevail upon the earth. The human spirit gradually advances in its path of progression. Many influences exist to prevent its rapid development. Abide in patience, therefore, laboring ever with earnest faith in the power of God, who reigneth eternal in the heavens. We would have you be strong, that you may be enabled to labor

earnestly, until the evening's close, that you may be prepared for the holy joys of an eternal life. Pray, therefore, for strength, that ye faint not by the way. Strive to enter into sweet communion with the Father. Many trials may be yours, still ever hope, for the promise given you will not fail."

Communication addressed to two members of a Circle in the country, in reply to some questions relating to the condition of their members.

"We cannot perceive the conditions which surround the different members of the Circle; but we will gladly give such directions as will enable any person, or number of persons, to attract spirits to their presence; and, if the physical condition be favorable, to enable them to receive communications from them. In the first place, then, meet together with the mind as free from temporal cares as possible. The first, and most important condition of mind to be obtained, is that of perfect passiveness. Endeavor, if possible, to divest yourselves of any desire or anxiety respecting the mode of manifestations. Submit passively to any influence whatever, that seems to be upon you. Have faith that spirits exist, and will, if possible, approach you. Do not doubt their influence, but be passive, and time will prove. Fear not, they come for your good. Sing and read, when you meet together. This has the effect to bring the mind into a passive state. Avoid, if possible, all anxiety. Spirits cannot impress a

mind already occupied with temporal cares. Seek to attract developed spirits. Be not anxious to convince skeptical minds. The mind must have evidence of a truth before it can be convinced. Labor earnestly, and you will have your reward."

UNION CIRCLE.

Feb. 9.

"We have told thee not to read, or listen to any communications from any spirits, through other mediums, until we have finished the series of communications which we are about giving; that others may not think thou obtainest thy impressions from any other source than that which purports to impress thee."

Q. What is the difference between electric and nervous force?

A. "When the human system is in a healthy state, it is positively electrified. The brain acts as a reservoir, collecting from the atmosphere the vital electricity, which differs somewhat from material electricity, being more ethereal. From the brain it is diffused through the system. The two brains act as the poles of the battery; one dispensing the vital fluid through the system, the other, attracting it from the different parts of the body. The right lobes of the brain act as the positive, the left as the negative poles. The atmosphere affects the electri-

cal condition of the system. When the body is in the enjoyment of perfect health, the action is regular. Many conditions of the system may prevent the proper *flow* of the electric fluid. It is impossible, at present, to describe all the different changes that may be produced; and the causes of such effects. But at some future time we will endeavor to explain the principal causes of unequal action, and the course to be observed to produce proper action. In observing the different causes of suffering, care should always be taken to ascertain the electric condition of the system; as, in many cases, relief might be readily obtained, by an effort to restore proper action in the nervous system, by inducing, by the will, or by some mechanical means, a proper action of the electric fluid contained in the system. Seek a communication upon this subject again; and we will endeavor to explain to you some of the symptoms which are perceptible in improper action."

[Continued on the 16th.]

PRIVATE CIRCLE.

February 11, 1852.

"Time was when the human spirit was enshrouded in darkness, that time is now past, and all the human family are called upon to examine, in candor, the communications we are now permitted

to give unto them. All are now called upon to endeavor to advance in the true light. All should seek to know themselves. Come therefore unto God. None should dwell in ignorance when the fountain of true knowledge is free to all. But come in faith, and drink deep of its waters, that you may even now behold the joys of the spirit-life. Why should the spirit languish and pine in darkness, when the bright sun has already risen?

“None need fear to come into the presence of the spirits who watch over and guide them in truth. If the mind could be free from fear, then could we more easily approach and influence those whom it is our mission to influence with the light of truth. We are constantly near those to whom we are attracted. None need doubt the truth of spiritual presence. If they would come unto us, we are ever ready to instruct and guide all who approach us with earnestness and pure love. Jesus told his followers whom he loved, that he would ever abide near them, knocking at the door of the heart, and would be ever ready to enter, if they would but admit him. Holy peace be unto you all. Spirits have a mission to perform. For a time, before they pass fully from the attraction of spirits still dwelling in the flesh, they are constantly engaged in fulfilling their mission; which is that of assisting the development of spirits less advanced than themselves in the knowledge of truth. We desire that

all who have received instruction from us, should endeavour to call the attention of mankind to our presence, and desire all to seek our influence, that their minds may be free from fear. Urge them to be passive to our influence. We come for the good of the human race. Many minds are so much oppressed with fear of us, that it is impossible for us in safety to approach them. The knowledge of the manifestations which we have been permitted to make, has had the tendency of exciting much fear in the minds of many who have been taught to feel a superstitious dread of us. This we desire you to labor to banish, for we cannot impress the mind when it is oppressed with fear of us."

Q. Can man, by the exercise of his will, control his destiny, or is he a creature of circumstance?

A. "Can the leopard change his spots or the Ethiopian his skin? All are created by the power of God. Have mercy then, and ask not for sacrifice, for all are the children of one God. Let charity then fill thy heart, and influence thee in all thy intercourse with thy fellow-man. Is the Father of the universe the God only of the elevated upon the earth? Are not the lowly and despised, beloved of the Father? Knowest thou not that God dispenses his blessings freely to all? Have mankind bestowed upon themselves the breath of life? Art not all the blessings that are thine to enjoy, given thee of the Father? We have told you all error and false

perception, are but a want of spiritual development. If, then, light is bestowed by the universal laws established by God, how then can man create the light? Does not he rather breathe in the light which is already shining in brightness? If the spirit be in darkness, the light cannot enter therein. The light has not yet fully penetrated the darkness, but the time is now at hand, when even the dark in spirit will become illuminated. The light is even now brightly shining in its uprisen glory. All will perceive it, and be blessed thereby. Yet none have created it, for it is freely given by the Father. Be humble, therefore, knowing that thou art created by the power of God. None can stand, unless it be by the Father's will. Think not that any bestow upon themselves the light of true knowledge. Study well thine own spirit, and judge wherein thou art beyond thy fellow-man in righteousness, knowing that the light has so brightly shone about thee; and then judge wherein others are more pure than thou."

Feb. 16, 1852.

Communication continued from Feb. 9.

"When the system appears in a languid and oppressed state, it is in a negative condition; it does not absorb sufficient electric power from the atmosphere, and is therefore not capable of supporting properly its pressure. When this condition of the system is evident, it is for want of proper ac-

tion in the brain. It does not absorb the vital electricity with sufficient rapidity. Water, or any other conductor, should then be particularly avoided as a remedy, but some generator of electric force should be applied. We would particularly advise, in all such cases, the use of iron, as it is a powerful excitant of the electric forces already contained in the system. Silk should, in such cases, be worn next the body. When nervous irritation is complained of, and the system appears to suffer from unnatural irritability, it is an evidence of undue absorption of the electric fluid from the atmosphere. In all such cases a contrary course, from the one advised in the former case, should be pursued. Water applied to the surface of the body, is one of the most effective remedies, for the reason we have already given in a former communication. If the electric condition of the system was more generally observed, and judicious efforts made to secure proper action, much physical suffering might be avoided. Undue mental excitement has a powerful tendency to destroy the proper action of the brain. Too much of the electric fluid is centered in its effects upon the brain alone; in all such cases the remaining portions of the body will always suffer thereby. In all efforts to restore proper action, the first thing to be observed is, the removing as much as possible the exciting cause, which in most cases is perceived through the outward senses. All re-

medies should have for their object the absorbing from the brain the extra electric fluid which exists therein, and by outward application exciting its action in the other parts of the body. We have told you that the proper development of the spirit depends in a measure upon the physical condition. For this reason we urge upon you that you endeavor to ascertain the physical laws of your being, and, if possible, live in accordance with them; as it is impossible for the different members of the body to be in the enjoyment of perfect health, and the brain be unduly exercised. All should therefore avoid, as far as possible, improper mental excitement. Withdraw yourselves as much as practicable from all the influences which improperly act through the outward senses, and few cases of mental excitement will ever exist. The spirit's impressions never cause unhealthy action; none therefore need fear their influence. The spirit's impressions upon spirit is in accordance with the divine law. Therefore none need fear its effects, if no unfavorable outward conditions exist to influence the action of the brain."

Q. In what form should we administer iron?

A. "In applying remedies for physical suffering, the condition of the system should be observed. It is impossible for us, at this time, to give the proper mode for administering iron in all cases wherein it would be beneficial; we can, however, give some

general directions. When extreme languor is evident with occasional mental irritability, it should always be given when the system seems the most prostrated; and in as dense a form as possible to be taken, but in small quantities. But if the symptoms be less severe, the remedies applied should be of a less positive character. We speak of the comparative electric properties of the remedies."

Received in reply to an article being read from a newspaper, giving an account of a woman in Kentucky who had been lost in the woods fourteen days, during the intense cold weather of the winter of 1851-2. When found she was to all appearances dead, but when the body was touched to ascertain whether decomposition had taken place, it gave evidence of life. The usual remedies were applied, which, after sometime, had the effect to entirely restore her, with the exception of the loss of one foot. After hearing the account, a Medium present said she had an impression that persons were never frozen to death—and immediately the following was communicated through the card:

"No degree of intensity of cold can force the spirit from the body. The body may become, to all appearance, dead. This phenomenon is observable in many animals. The human body may become in a similar condition; but death is not produced thereby. Other causes may at the time be

in operation, which will produce death. But remember, cold cannot force the spirit from the body. Therefore, in all cases of apparent death from that cause, every effort should be taken to reanimate the body, by constant bathing in water, at first cold, then gradually increasing in heat, and powerful friction by human hands, applied to the chest, particularly in the region of the heart. This mode of treatment, in many cases, will have the effect to reanimate the body."

Feb. 18.

"All spirits, existing in the flesh, may be influenced by those who have passed to the spirit world. Most persons can be impressed by spirits; but all cannot become electric Mediums: this requires a peculiar electric condition of the system. The females, particularly of civilized nations, are more readily impressed than the males. They possess more spirituality. They are less absorbed by the affections of the animal nature; and are, therefore, more pure in spirit. This renders them more readily approached by spirits who are enabled to communicate with the human race; yet all spirits may be impressed, at times, when the mind is in a passive condition. Seek, therefore, to cultivate a condition of mind that will enable spirits to approach you. This condition may be attained, by overcoming, as far as possible, the positive will powers, and

being ‘as clay in the hands of the potter;’ submitting yourselves unto the power of God. Whenever the mind is active in its own will, it cannot be readily impressed.”

Q. What is the meaning of being impressed?

A. “We mean the power of pouring from the fulness of knowledge, contained by us, a portion into the human spirit. All love and wisdom flows from the Eternal God, as we have told you, through the appointed channel, which is the intelligence of his creation; which alone is the spirit bestowed by Him, upon his highest intellectual creation which is seen upon the earth, in the human spirit. Through this channel, alone, the light of true knowledge is obtained. Through no other source can it be obtained. Seek, then, to bow humbly to the will of God, and learn of Him. Submit yourselves unto Him.”

PRIVATE CIRCLE.

Feb. 19.

Question. Are the impressions received from our guardian spirits of the same character as those we receive from spirits in the body, who are more advanced than ourselves?

Answer. “It matters not, from whom the impressions of truth and love are perceived; whether from spirits who have left the body, or those who

still exist in the flesh. All truth is of God. Spirits that have passed to the spirit world, if they be highly developed, perceive truth more clearly than it is possible for spirits still existing in the flesh to do. Yet, spirits still in the flesh, are enabled to impress those less developed, with knowledge, as far as they themselves perceive it."

Q. How do mediums see spirits?

A. Spirits have the power of making themselves visible to the outward senses; but such cases of spiritual perception are unusual, in the present state of the advancement of the human spirit. Clairvoyants, in their peculiar condition, can readily perceive them. They are withdrawn from the outward world, and their spirits are in a measure withdrawn from the flesh; they are therefore nearer the spirit life. But many cases of spiritual perception are produced by mental impressions only. Spirits are enabled to impress spirits still existing in the flesh, of particular incidents which they desire to make evident to their minds. In many instances, this power for producing important effects is great. They can, by this means, impress with power, many minds that they could not otherwise influence."

Feb. 22.

[Received in reply to remarks made in the Circle.]

“None need desire to be Mediums for mere physical manifestations. Although they have been, and still are, of importance in calling the attention of the human family to the fact of spiritual communication, yet but little important information can be conveyed through them. There are many reasons for this. Spirits highly developed in spiritual perception, cannot produce strong physical manifestation. They are produced by the means of electricity, which is more dense than the magnetic essence. Although physical manifestations are produced by spirits in an undeveloped state, yet it must not be supposed that they are evil. Spirits who have been in the spirit world but a short time, are, as a general thing, enabled to produce physical demonstrations ; for they have not completely passed beyond the electric circle of power. While they remain within that circle they are enabled to operate upon inanimate matter ; but when they pass into a higher and more ethereal strata, or sphere, they operate only through the magnetic medium ; they therefore are not enabled to operate upon it ; for, as we have before told you, the magnetic fluid freely penetrates all matter ; it therefore cannot be an obstruction to it.

“It should be the object of all, who desire to receive communications from spirits that have left the body, to obtain such information as will enable them to advance in true knowledge. It is not well,

therefore, to be anxious to have physical manifestations only ; but be passive, yielding yourselves unto the power that influences you.”

Q. What is the difference between the state of the Medium now communicating, and a clairvoyant ?

A. “ In the clairvoyant state, the spirit is, in a measure, withdrawn from the body. This condition may be produced by subjecting the spirit unto the power of a positive *will* ; either of spirits still existing in the flesh, or of those that have passed to the spirit world. In all cases, wherein clairvoyants are in the state termed dependent, their spirits are, in a measure, withdrawn by the attraction of the *will* that is influencing them, which *will* exists in spirits, still existing in the flesh. When they are independent, they are, in like manner, attracted, in a measure, from the body, by spirits that have passed to the spirit world. They are then enabled to perceive, through their own spiritual perception. The condition of the present Medium differs widely from that of a clairvoyant ; her spirit is not in the least withdrawn from the body ; her brain is susceptible to impressions produced by us through the magnetic medium, in the manner we have already described to you. Her condition is similar to that which is produced by one mind upon another, in what is termed psychology.”

Q. Why is it, that at times the medium loses the power of articulating ?

A. " It is our intention to bring her so fully under our will, that we may be enabled to make her clairvoyant. At the times when she is unable to articulate, she is more fully under our control ; her outward senses are slightly closed. We have not as yet, been enabled to destroy her outward perceptions sufficiently to withdraw her spirit in the least degree from the body. This is why she is not yet clairvoyant. There is less danger of the spirit leaving the body entirely, when they are under the influence of spirits who have passed to the spirit world than there is when they are under the influence of those still existing in the flesh. Strong mental excitement in the operator, may be the cause of the spirit of the subject passing entirely from the body. There is not the least danger, where spirits out of the body are influencing them. They are not subject to any undue mental excitement."

Q. Do some medicines more particularly affect one side of the body ; and, if so, why ?

A. " We have told you, the human body when in a healthy condition is electrified. The right side of the body is positive, the left negative. If the body be in a negative condition, certain metallic medicines being given, will act upon the right side ; or in other words affect only the positive portion of the body, by exciting the electric fluid that

still exists therein, and thereby inducing a condition of greater attractive power in the brain, thus enabling it to restore the positive condition of the body.

“In all cases, of an undue positive condition of the system, all medicines possessing electric qualities are highly injurious. In such cases, the object should be, to withdraw from the system the over electric force, by the application of any conductor of the fluid to the skin, which is the only natural outlet, and through it only can it be readily withdrawn. When medicines are given, they should be of a positive electric character. We speak only of the electric condition of the system. In all cases of disease, the electric condition is not necessarily materially effected. We have not given direction for the remedies to be used in such cases. We know but little of the condition of the system other than its electric. For these conditions only have we given instruction. We have said when the system is in a negative condition, remedies of a positive character should be applied; they will then act as we have described. Medicines of a positive character being taken, when the system is in a healthy condition, will effect principally the left side of the body; they serve to excite too powerfully the electric force contained therein. The right or positive is not so readily affected, it being already so positive as to repel its influence. Medi-

cines of a contrary character, will act in a contrary manner, attracting from the positive side of the body a portion of the fluid required for its proper action, which always has an injurious effect."

February 23, 1852.

The brilliant Aurora Borealis, witnessed a few evenings since, induced the Circle to ask for an explanation of the cause, and the following was received :

"The electric fluid pervades the earth's atmosphere, (as well as that of all the other planets of the solar system, of which the earth is a member,) in its denser form. The rays of the sun act with much power as an excitant and generating force of this fluid. The effect produced by the sun's rays is evinced with much power at the equator. The excessive electric force there produced, dispenses itself throughout the earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere when excessively cold, contains so much of the fluid, that the fluid existing about the equator cannot pass towards the poles with its usual rapidity. When the temperature is about to change, the attractive power of the polar regions is, on account of the want of a sufficient supply of the fluid, much increased. This creates a rapid flow towards the poles, that the deficiency may be supplied. When the atmosphere is in the condition described, the course of the fluid is perceptible in the flashes of

electric light known as the Aurora Borealis. The condition of the atmosphere at the time of these manifestations is powerfully electric.

“The same cause which induces the flow of the electric fluid toward the poles, that of the want there existing, causes the effect produced upon the magnetic needle. It, being in a highly electric condition, is attracted by the deficiency existing at the poles, for you know two highly electric bodies repel each other, therefore in all cases of attraction, one must be negative and the other positive. Thus, the needle being electric, is attracted toward that point of the atmosphere containing the least electricity, and forced from that possessing the most.”

Here some remarks were made by the members, with regard to the flashes of light always appearing to commence near the north, and extend towards the zenith. When the communication continued as follows:

“The fluid we have said is excited and generated by the effect of the sun’s rays about the equator. It is not generated at the poles. It passes from the equator to the polar regions, and there is in a measure absorbed. A heated atmosphere excites and evolves the fluid with much rapidity, while a cold atmosphere concentrates and retains it. Thus when the atmosphere is excessively cold, it contains much electric fluid. This condition of the atmosphere extending toward the equator, prevents the

fluid passing with its proper rapidity toward that portion of the earth, wherein it is not generated. Therefore, when the condition of the atmosphere is changed, it rushes with unusual rapidity toward the poles, which then contain less of the fluid than is required, although that already existing in the polar region is in a positive and condensed condition.

“The flashes perceived at the time of the Aurora, are caused by the attraction of the negative condition of the atmosphere. The fluid first becomes visible at the point of the greatest attraction, and the illumination continues until it arrives at the point wherein the attraction is of slight force. This is the cause of the flashes appearing to commence nearer to the north. The fluid is not perceptible, after it arrives at the point where the atmosphere commences to be in an active, and consequently positive condition. If we have not yet explained with sufficient clearness this phenomenon, we desire that you should ask questions which may enable us to explain.”

March 1, 1852.

Q. Will the spirits tell us the cause of the variation of the magnetic needle?

A. “We have said the magnetic needle is influenced by the electric currents passing from the equator to the poles, but other causes operate pow-

erfully upon it. When it is brought near to negative substance it is affected by it, thus when it approaches any portion of the earth, wherein is embedded a large amount of attractive metal, it is attracted toward the earth. The electric currents existing in the atmosphere, are in a like manner attracted. The crossing and recrossing the equator does not, at all times, materially affect the position of the needle, for the currents flow in straight lines from the equator to the pole, unless there exists a peculiar condition of atmosphere. Such conditions do sometimes exist as have the effect to produce vacillations in the course of the fluid ; at such times the needle may be powerfully affected. If you desire to prove the truth of the facts, which we have stated, procure a common magnetic needle, take it to the vicinity of some large bed of negative ore, and the effect we have described will be perceptible at a time when the atmosphere is not highly electrical. The condition of the atmosphere always effects the power of attractive substance."

Q. Is there a passage for vessels across the Arctic circle, or around the earth at the North Pole?

A. "Centuries will pass before it will be possible for vessels to pass around the earth, within the Arctic circle. The position of the earth is gradually changing. In time the atmosphere within the polar regions will be so changed in temperature, as to gradually dissolve the bodies of ice existing

therein. The changes which are gradually being produced in the position of the axis of the earth, as well as the physical changes upon its surface, materially affect the human race. God's laws operate in harmony. The changes of the earth keep pace with the requirements of man's nature. We have told you that changes ever have been, and still are occurring upon the earth; these changes are in a measure produced by the gradual changes of the position of the earth."

PRIVATE CIRCLE.

March 10, 1852.

"Spirits who have failed to become developed in the flesh, enter the spirit world without knowledge. If they have been oppressed by the undue exercise of the lower propensities of the animal nature, they are surrounded by a veil of darkness which requires, in some cases, a long period of time to emerge therefrom. While they exist in the state of development spoken of, they are not enabled to perceive truth clearly. Spirits of a low state of development are sometimes enabled to communicate; they communicate through the electric medium; they are not enabled to communicate through the magnetic essence, for they have not entered the magnetic circle or sphere. None need fear being influenced by undeveloped spirits, if they exert their

will in opposition to their influence, or in other words, desire to receive communications from spirits of enlightened perceptions. The same laws govern the association of spirits existing in the flesh, and those who have passed to the spirit world, as influence the intercourse of spirits still existing in the flesh. Highly developed spirits who still exist in the body, need not fear the influence of the undeveloped, if they earnestly desire to advance in true knowledge. For unharmonious spirits repel each other. The laws governing spiritual intercourse are as positive as those governing the attraction of different particles of matter. Highly developed spirits are readily enabled to impress those less developed; but it is scarcely possible for the undeveloped to influence those already enlightened in the truth. Still all should avoid placing themselves in a position wherein they are constantly brought in contact with the undeveloped, unless they be impressed with the earnest desire to instruct and enlighten them in true knowledge. We would advise all to be guarded against submitting themselves to the influence of undeveloped spirits still existing in the flesh, for the thoughts possessed by them may have the effect to prevent those with whom they mingle, from readily perceiving the light. Ask earnestly of God that you may be instructed in truth and righteousness, and you will be instructed in all truth."

Q. Was Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt?

A. "No such circumstance ever occurred, the laws which God has established cannot be violated."

Q. What gave rise to that passage in the Bible?

A. "We cannot perceive. The account is not true. All should endeavour to relieve their spirits from the influence of the false impressions produced by such accounts of violations of established laws; for such opinions have the effect to prevent the spirit's advancement. Seek to know the truth of God's laws as they are revealed in nature. Endeavour to keep the mind clear, to receive the true light."

Q. Did spirits open the prison doors for Peter?

A. "Yes. Peter was in a condition to be approached by spirits, he was readily influenced by them. He had frequent physical manifestations. He communicated freely with spirits. He sought their influence. He regarded them as holy angels sent of God. This was why they were enabled to make powerful manifestations in his presence. He was in a condition similar to that of those who are now termed Mediums. All who are in a condition to be approached by spirits, so as to enable them to manifest their presence, are Mediums. All who have ever communicated with spirits, are Mediums."

March 18.

Q. By J. C. Will the spirit of my dear wife be

so kind as to give us some of her experience since she entered the spirit world?

A. "My dear husband, children and friends.—I am with you, it is a great joy to be enabled to communicate to you. I would that it were possible for me to convince you all of my presence, that you could no longer doubt. The happiness of all would be much increased if you could but have living faith in the truth of the spirit-life, and the communications which spirits are permitted to give to the human family. While I dwelt in the flesh, I could not have perfect faith in what purported to be spiritual communication. I now perceive wherein my happiness was lessened by this want of faith. My mind was in doubt respecting the future condition of the spirit. I could not realize the state of holy blissfulness which awaited the spirit upon its withdrawal from the flesh; I therefore felt strongly bound by the affections of the flesh, and dreaded my returning home. The future was not clear to me, this caused me many moments of great anxiety. My mind had, in a measure, been darkened by the teachings of those who claim to be instructors in the truths of the spirit-life, but I now see they, themselves, were destitute of the true light. The doubts which oppressed my mind were, as I said, the cause of my fearing the withdrawal of the spirit from the flesh. You may imagine the holy joy which filled my spirit, when I found myself freed

from my animal nature, and existing in the abodes of the blessed. But no, you cannot conceive the rapture that filled my soul. The excessive joy and the all-absorbing rapture which pervades the spirit when it finds itself in the presence of the Almighty Father and ruler of the universe, cannot be conceived of by the spirit, while it is surrounded by the animal nature, and, in a measure, absorbed by the affections of the flesh. Although the spirit, when it leaves the body, is almost overpowered with exceeding joy in its new life, yet it is strongly attracted by the affections of those whom it loved in the flesh; this feeling of affection is unending, but as it progresses in spiritual life, it becomes united in affection with untold numbers of spirits with whom it fully harmonizes.

“ Oh what beauties, what surpassing rapture and glory are perceived by the pure spirit; on wings of radiant beauty it mounts higher and higher in holiness and love, ever receiving and absorbing more and more of the attributes of the infinite Father, which is the perfection of holiness and love. It is impossible for me to convey to your minds, by the means of words, the faintest idea of the rapture which is mine to enjoy. Yet I am ever with you. I perceive, my dear husband, the affections which fills thy spirit. Oh fear not thy return to thy Father's house.”

March 20.

“The object of the communications and manifestations which spirits are permitted to make to the world, at this time, is to assist the advancement of the human race. All who are favored, to be enabled to hold communion with spirits, are particularly called upon to labor for the temporal and spiritual advancement of those who are dwelling in darkness. Those who receive instruction from us, must expect to labor; for this have you been called. You must endeavor to enter into some arrangements whereby you will be enabled to effectually assist the undeveloped. You must labor to alleviate the physical suffering existing in your midst.

“It will be well for you to meet at least once each week, to consider what you can best do to assist the suffering. We will endeavor, if possible, to instruct you in the course to be pursued. The world now requires earnest laborers. In your very midst, many are enshrouded in the excess of spiritual darkness; upon such you must endeavor to bestow light.

“We have told you physical suffering has the effect to injure the spirit, you must, therefore, first endeavor to remove this cause of darkness. You must obey the directions we have given you. When you meet for the purpose we have stated, it will be well for you to appoint four or six of your number

to go out, and inquire into the condition of the suffering in the immediate vicinity of the place of your meeting. You must desire them to bring in a report of the condition of those whom they have visited, at the next meeting; and we will instruct you in the course to be pursued, to insure their rapid advancement. You must request the co-operation of all who are investigating this subject, as well as all with whom you are brought in contact in society, whom you feel impressed would be willing to unite with you in this mission.

“The command which Jesus gave to his followers, to go into the market places; and bid all to enter into his vineyard, is still binding upon all who truly desire to be earnest followers of him. At a future meeting we will give you further instructions; in the meantime endeavor to ascertain the best means to be adopted, to bring all who are investigating this subject, in this city, to unite with you.”

Q. By Dr. P. Are all functional and organic diseases the result of abnormal nerve action?

A. “No. Many diseases are produced from other than electric causes; the nervous system is the medium through which the electric fluid is passed through the system. Many diseases are the effects of impurity of blood; in such cases the nervous condition is not the cause of the disease, although diseases existing in the system will, in time,

destroy the healthy condition of the nerves, if even they be in a healthy condition when the disease first attacks the physical body.”

Q. In treating all diseases, should physicians direct their treatment to the nervous centers, or to the system at large?

A. “The chief object in the treatment of disease, should be the withdrawal of the exciting cause. In most cases, if the cause of the disease be removed, nature will of herself be enabled to restore healthy action.

“When the disease is caused from an unhealthy action of the nervous fluid, it would be well to direct the remedies to the restoring the proper action, by withdrawing as much as possible the exciting cause. If the disease be caused from an unhealthy condition of the blood, or any other of the numerous causes of suffering, the object in such cases should also be to remove the exciting cause; and then, if it appears necessary still further to assist nature, the remedies should be applied to that portion of the system, which seems to be the most severely affected.”

March 23.

“Tarry not, have faith in us, and we will guide you in the paths of peace. To you it will be given to know the joys of the spirit life, while you yet dwell in the flesh, as far as mortals are enabled to

perceive of those joys. The kingdom of heaven is near unto you. Holy peace is ever the reward of a pure life.

“So much anxiety ought not to be felt respecting the obeying the directions you receive from spirits who have passed to the spirit home. When you receive directions to enter into the labors of mercy and charity, you need not fear, but power will be given you to fulfil the mission that is required of you. Mankind desire the advancement of each other, but truth has been darkened by the many discussions upon the life and mission of Jesus, also by a feeling of too great individuality; they have failed to perceive the unity of the human race. Our particular mission is, to instruct you with regard to the mission of Jesus, and urge upon you the necessity of banishing as much as possible that feeling of excessive selfishness that now exists among men. Before you can be impressed, with as much ease and clearness as we would desire, you must be passive, and willing to yield to our influence. The time has now come when you will be called upon to enter with earnestness into the labor for which you have been called,—that of assisting the advancement of the undeveloped, and, as far as it is possible, assisting to dispel the darkness and gloom which now enshrouds many minds. At our next meeting with you, we will give you the full directions for the course, which we wish you to pursue

at present ; fear not to obey us, you need not doubt our power to assist you, for we would not have given you directions such as we have, unless we knew power would be given us to instruct and assist you in your labors. Enter with earnestness into the work, and many will be benefited thereby."

Q. Will the spirit of my dear father give us an explanation of the second chapter of Acts, second and third verses ?

A. "The manifestations which are referred to in that passage of Scripture, as it is termed, were produced by the presence of spirits. The persons there assembled were filled with much love. Their condition was such as to enable spirits to make strong manifestations of power in their presence, and upon them. When they perceived the presence of many spirits in their midst, and beheld the forms which they combined, to render themselves visible to their outward senses, their spirits were filled with exceeding love ; and they uttered the words of thanksgiving and praise, in the language in which it was given to them to glorify God.

"There were many earnest spirits there assembled. Jesus had told them, they would have powerful manifestations. They abode in passiveness of spirit ; having faith, that all would be fulfilled which he had promised unto them.

"The manifestations there alluded to, were the most powerful of the kind that have ever been wit-

nessed by man. The peculiar passive condition of those present, and their perfect faith, enabled spirits to impress them with much power.”

Q. Is the spirit land located ?

A. We have said that spirit is an active principle. It does not possess outward form of itself ; but by a combination of an ethereal condition of matter, it is enabled to manifest itself to the outward senses by its pervading that combination ; but the combination is not itself the spirit ; it is but the form, which the spirit at the time pervades. Thus, you perceive that no particular portion of space is occupied by spirits ; all space is visited by them, as we have before told you. By your reflecting upon the existent condition of thought, which is an active condition of spirit, when it is in accordance with love, you may be enabled to understand the peculiarities of spirit. You know, thought cannot dwell in any prescribed portion of space ; but is ever active, and enabled to pass from one point of space to another. Thus it is with spirit. Spirits pass, after they leave the body, beyond the atmosphere of the earth. Whilst they exist in the flesh, they are principally attracted to the earth, and the animal body ; yet, at times, they are enabled to pass, for a time, in a measure, beyond the earth ; but such cases are rare. Spirits possess many attributes. Thought is, as we have said, an active condition of those attributes.”

[The remark was here made by a member of the Circle, that they expected Davis was, at times, in that condition : when the communication continued.]

“ Yes, he there perceives the higher attributes of spirit, which, as the spirit withdraws from the body and the affections of the flesh, becomes more evident. We have said, that strong affections, felt for those who are still existing in the flesh, prevents the spirit passing to the higher states, when they first withdraw from the body. They are always attracted by love. While powerful love is felt for them by those whom they have loved in the flesh, they are attracted by that love ; and are not enabled readily to advance into higher or more clear conditions of existence.”

March 29, 1852.

“ Give to God all glory. Abide in faith, we implore you. Doubt not your mission. Fear not to obey us. Look only to God. Abide in patience, knowing in his own due time he will fulfil the promise which he gave to the human family through Jesus Christ, who was the beloved of the Father, being made perfect through love. If you yet fail to possess faith in us, believe us for the sake of the works we have commanded of you. No good thing can come of the excess of darkness. Endeavor to cultivate charity, feeling fully convinced that all obey the light when the light has become fully ma-

nifest. Strive to instruct all ; but remember, in no case to urge conviction upon any. Look abroad amongst the spirits still dwelling in darkness, and judge you whether the commands we have given unto you be not in love. Can evil or hatred instruct in perfect love ? Can the true light become darkness ? Are not the shades of darkness banished before the rising of the pure light of love ? Passiveness alone is now required to enable us to communicate freely.

“ We desire you to obey the directions we have given you, fearing not ; but trusting with earnest faith in our power to assist you. Seek to induce all who have faith in the power of spirits to communicate to mankind, to unite with you in your efforts. Obey, and you will in time assuredly receive your reward ; that of holy peace and the fullness of love, which the Father of infinite mercy will bestow upon you.”

March 31.

Communicated upon the subject of publishing.

“ My daughter, I desire thee to endeavor, under all circumstances, to cultivate perfect charity. Remember all fulfil, as far as surrounding conditions enable them, the light which is fully manifest in them. With respect to the publication of the communications, we have at different times been able to give unto you, we desire you should obey

the directions we have already given you. You need not feel any scruples in publishing the names of those who, at different times, met the circle, either as members of the committee or as members of the Circle only. All who have acted as members of the committee have, in doing so, given their names to you, knowing what we required of them. You need not now fear to make use of them in the manner we have directed. Be perfectly passive; but in all things, obey the directions we have given unto you. With respect to the committee for publication, endeavor to select those who are perfectly willing to act. If you find it impossible to procure such a committee, we desire the Medium herself to prepare them for publication. We will, if possible, instruct her. She need not fear. Time will enable us to convince all."

April 12, 1852.

"Days, weeks, and years pass rapidly by. Man enters into being; his animal nature passes unerringly to decay. Is the object, then, of his being created, fulfilled? Does he breathe the breath of life merely to suffer for a few short days, and then be consigned to the tomb? Is this alone the object of his being? Does the Father of the universe bestow upon man high and holy aspirations for perfect knowledge, merely to answer them by the darkness of the grave? Thinkest thou, oh man! that

God has brought any portion of his creation into being for nought? Seest thou not that infinite wisdom is stamped upon all his works? Why, then, has the thought ever entered thy mind, that man alone, of all his creatures, exists merely to decay? If mankind would but study their own aspirations, or, in other words, the teachings of the spirit within, they would not doubt their immortal destiny. While they exist only through the animal nature, they perceive only the wants of the animal man. They fail to behold the glory of the spirit life. They are of the earth, earthly. None can perceive clearly the spirit's teachings, while they exist only through the animal propensities. It is not possible for any who live a truly spiritual life to doubt the immortal existence of the spirit. They perceive clearly the truths of the spirit's teachings. They know of a truth that the spirit is of God, and cannot die; but that it is destined for an unending eternity; constantly approaching near and nearer to the holy perfections of God. If, then, the spirit is immortal, can it not fully mingle with spirit, after it has withdrawn from the body? Can it not, by the power of its love, return to the presence of those beloved, who still exist in the flesh, and gently impress them of its presence, and of the perfect joys of the spirit life; kindly urging them, by the constant inflowings of wisdom and love, to seek their presence, and labor to live a pure and holy life? This is ever their

mission. It is God's will, that harmony and love be established upon the earth. Seek, then, to assist to establish the Kingdom of Righteousness upon the earth. Seek to teach all the joys of holy love."

May 8.

"Behold, the resurrection and the life. From resurrection unto resurrection, matter arises, clothed in new beauty, advancing steadily onward towards the perfection to which it is capable of arriving. Know, then, new glory and exceeding beauty adorn the spirit as it passes through resurrection, towards the highest perfection of the Spirit, which is God. The blossom, as it bursts forth into beauty, knows not of the pleasure it confers on the advanced in spirit, by its beauty; nor yet the warbling songsters, as they pour forth their notes of harmonious music, feel not the raptures which are enjoyed by the spirits susceptible to the pleasures of exceeding harmony; and thus it is with the spirit of man; it cannot perceive the joys which are felt by the spirits who have passed to the spirit world, when they perceive them laboring to live in accordance with the laws of their being. The spirits rejoice with exceeding joy to behold the earnest efforts of the human spirit in its labors to advance in love and righteousness. If then, pure pleasure is enjoyed by all created beings in beholding the constantly advancing beauty of all the lower conditions of na-

ture, great, indeed, must be the joy of spirits who have arrived near to the throne of the Eternal God, in beholding the perfect development of the Father's laws. The perfection of the spirit of love, which is the Eternal God, is itself conscious of thrills of unspeakable joy in beholding the perfection of its work. Naught but unending joy is felt by the developed spirit; no pang of sorrow is ever felt by the advanced in spirit after they have passed to the spirit world, for the affections of the material nature are no longer active; they receive only the inflowings of the spirit life, bow to the will of God, and rejoice in the joy that awaits them."

Q. Does duty to man, and compliance with the teachings of Jesus, require that we should sell all and give to the poor?

A. "Regard yourselves as stewards of the Lord God, who hold his earthly treasures in trust. See to it, that none of the suffering poor are allowed to languish and perish in your midst, while you are possessed of earthly treasures; but earnestly labor to place all as far as it is in your power, in conditions whereby they may be enabled to procure from the treasures in store within the bosom of the earth, support to meet their earthly wants. If any be sick or imprisoned, minister unto them. Your treasures are not your own, but the Lord's. Jesus did not require that those who possessed earthly treasures should sell all and give to the poor; but that

all should feel themselves bound, in every case, to assist the suffering. God has made ample provision for all the animal wants of his creatures, in the wealth existing upon the earth. All should be cautious, in no case to allow the desire for earthly treasures to darken the spirit, lest they become poor indeed."

Q. Are the wants of the vicious and profligate equally entitled to our notice with those of the virtuous?

A. "Yes, for all exist according to the condition of their being; those who are dark and undeveloped, are the most truly objects of charity; but the giving of gold and silver only, is not true charity; bestow upon them rather sympathy and love. Strive to instruct them in truth, then will you bestow upon them treasures of unbounded worth. As far as in your power, guard them from evil influences; blame not the erring, but seek to bring all to the knowledge of God."

May 18, 1852.

"When mankind attempt to reason upon the attributes and infinite power of God, they fail to perceive the inflowings of his divine spirit. Reason is the highest faculty possessed by the material man, for reason is itself, in a degree, material; it is acted upon by outward existences. It is through the magnetic essence existing in the brain, that outward

conditions are enabled to excite within it sensation, and, consequently, thought; it will be perceived, therefore, that every thought which owes its impulse to outward conditions, is received through a material medium. It is also through the magnetic essence that spirits are able to impress spirits of the truth while they exist in the flesh; but the spirit itself is of God. If it exist in harmony with itself, or in other words, is clear to perceive the existence of its Author and source, by not being enveloped by false impressions and evil, which are induced by the effect of the outward existence of matter acting upon it through the reason; it can fully perceive the power and infinite glory of the Father. We would therefore urge upon all who desire to advance in spiritual perception, to calmly and passively listen to the teachings of the spirit, which can be perceived and enjoyed only by and through the spirit, which is possessed by all from the fullness of the spirit which is God.

“Although mind ever impresses itself upon its creation, still in no one effort of mind can clearly be perceived the fullness of its power, but each creation only displays a single effort; thus it is with the power which is termed God; in each created thing is perceived an active effort of that power; man may therefore judge how far he is enabled through *reason alone*, to perceive the wisdom and power of the eternal Father.”

COMMUNICATIONS

Received in the presence of the Committee invited to meet with the Circle, in accordance with directions given in the preceding pages.

Jun. 30, 1852.

The following members of the committee were present :

James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, William H. Furness, Henry D. Moore, Abel C. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Thomas, Oliver Johnson, W. Morris Davis, Evans Rogers, ———, ———.*

“ We promised to give you an explanation of the physical and spiritual perfections of Jesus.

“ For a long period of time anterior to his birth, the Jewish nation was expecting the advent of one who would be to them a teacher of righteousness. Many who were advanced in spiritual perceptions, had foretold the coming of one who would be to them a teacher of truth and righteousness. They expected he would come to reign as a temporal King. The prophets, as they were termed, perceived that such conditions existed, which in time would have the effect to produce a state of spiritual

* A gentleman and his wife who acted on the committee, objected to having their names made public; the place they *should* occupy will be filled by a dash.

and mental advancement, as would require the presence upon the earth of a spirit of pre-eminent perfection. They were impressed that he would be called the Holy One of God; yet they were so much absorbed in the affections of the animal nature, that they failed to perceive clearly the condition of his being. This promise had the effect to induce many mothers in Israel to desire to be the favored of the Lord. They were taught to believe his coming would be accompanied by many miracles; but such was not the case. The accounts which his professed followers now possess, are altogether false. He was the Son of man, He will ever continue to be a *Sun* to mankind, his teachings will ever be a pure light. His mother in the flesh was highly developed in spirit, as also was his father in the flesh. They had lived in accordance with both the spiritual and physical laws of God, as far as it was possible for them to do, in their then state of enlightenment; this was the cause of his physical perfection. His mother being impressed that her son would be the teacher looked for, taught him from his early infancy to live a life of moral perfection. He was naturally of a mild and passive temperament, which rendered him readily impressed. He who is spoken of as David, in the Bible, was the spirit appointed by God to influence his development. Before Jesus arrived at the age of maturity, he became so highly developed, that

God only impressed him. This it was that induced him to speak of his being one with the Eternal Father ; he knew that his followers were not in as perfect harmony with the Father as he was. If any now present desire to ask questions upon this subject, we will endeavor to answer, if conditions be such as to enable us to do so."

Q. By Mr. Furness. How came Jesus to be thought for so many ages, and by so many millions, to be, not a man, but God ?

A. "His own immediate followers did not believe him to be the Son of God in the sense which many now claim his being ; they knew him to be the Son of man, as he repeatedly told them he was, but many even at that day knowing the manifestations which accompanied him, and feeling conscious he was not the Son of evil, attributed to him the perfections of God, and therefore supposed him to be God himself. For the human mind is ever prone to wander to extremes,—as they found he could not be thought to be the Son of darkness, they claimed for him more holy origin than that which he repeatedly told them was his ; thus it has ever been ; mankind either cry out, he hath a devil, or, he is anointed of God. In after years the teachers in the church labored to inculcate the idea of his divine origin, and also taught that man, by faith in his divinity, might be saved ; which is a doctrine altogether foreign from truth. This doctrine has

done much to prevent the rapid development of the human spirit. Man has, through it, been impressed with the idea, that he may exist without endeavoring to develop his spirituality, and thereby dwell in darkness ; and yet by one hour's penitence enter a high state of spiritual happiness.

“ The time has now arrived when man will perceive the necessity of living a holy life, and thereby develope his spiritual attributes, which are love to God and man while in the flesh ; if he desires to enter into a high state of spiritual enjoyment when his spirit withdraws from the earthly body.”

Q. By ———. Where was Jesus, and what was he doing, between the ages of 12 and 30 years ?

A. “ He dwelt with his parents in Nazareth, assisting his father in the performance of manual labor. He frequently taught the people before he attracted the notice of the rulers amongst the Jews.”

Q. By Henry D. Moore. What is the meaning of the Scripture which says, that Jesus, after his death, went to preach to the spirits in prison ?

A. “ Oh man, knowest thou not that he even now, and in all ages since he existed in the flesh, teacheth the down trodden and imprisoned ? Rejoice in that knowledge ; all spirits may be taught of him.”

Feb. 6.

The second communication received in the presence of the following persons, members of the committee :

James Mott, Oliver Johnson, Abel C. Thomas, Joseph S. Lovering, W. Morris Davis, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas, Mrs. Cinthia Collins, George Taber, ———.

“Rest in peace. Fear not; we have come to conquer. The bright morning is at hand; doubt and darkness must be dispelled before the rising of the sun of righteousness. We would to-night speak to you of the formation of the animal man. All matter is an existant condition of the universal essence which exists with the power which is termed God. It is the lowest development of that power; the spirit is the ultimate. Many ages have been required to bring about the present state of material development as it now exists upon the earth. After passing from its elementary or gaseous state, matter assumed a condition of greater density, and particles, by their inherent properties, attracted each other, which produced a substance such as is sometimes found to be contained in meteors, which substance is produced from the operations of the same laws that brought into existence the material universe, and which are still, and ever will continue to act throughout eternity. New systems of worlds are by it ever being brought into existence.

“After the matter existing in the earth passed from the state spoken of, it assumed a still more dense form; thus it passed from one state of development to another, until it was in an existant con-

dition suitable to produce vegetation; but many centuries passed before it arrived to this state. After this, the next state of material development was that of the animal. Many varieties were brought into existence before matter became sufficiently perfected to produce its ultimate, man. After matter arrived to this degree of development, the spirit was bestowed upon it. It, too, has required many ages to become developed to its present state in the material body. In the early stages of its development, when it first became conscious of its existence, the first attribute possessed by it, that of veneration or love to its author and source, was called into action; this attribute is perceptible wherever the spirit exists. In the early stages of its development, it manifested itself by worshiping matter, as it was presented to the outward senses, which alone was comprehended by it. After this, it arrived to that state wherein it bowed only to man, which it perceived to be an image of God. It had not yet arrived to that state of advancement, which enabled it to perceive its own perfection. The light of the spirit had as yet scarce dawned—man knew not wherein he was created in the image of the Father; this last state of the spirit is still manifested in the worship of Jesus, for mankind have not fully arrived at that state of development which enables them to worship only the spirit, in spirit and in truth. But they are even yet prone to offer incense to

the material man. The time is now at hand, when the spirit will begin to perceive its own perfection, and to know of a truth, it is one with the Father. From this time forward the spirit will bow only to spirit; none need hope to prevent the advancement of the human spirit, for every knee must bow, and every tongue confess, that God alone is the Lord, and ever reigneth in glory. If any desire to ask questions upon the subject of which we have been communicating to you, we will, if possible answer, and will labor to bestow light."

Q. By Oliver Johnson. Does the spirit now in communication with us give us its opinions merely, or does it state what is universally known and recognized by all spirits as truth?

A. "In all the communications which we are prepared to give you, we communicate that which we know to be true. Many spirits will ere long be enabled to bear testimony to the truth of the facts which we give unto you. We will in no case give you opinions merely, but we will communicate that which is eternally true; you need not doubt our statements, we come to bear witness of the light; many other spirits who have passed to the spirit home, will soon be enabled to communicate to you the truths of God's laws."

Q. By O. Johnson. Are the inhabitants of the spirit world endowed with the power of distinguishing infallibly between truth and error, or are they

liable in common with the dwellers upon the earth, to be mistaken respecting what they communicate ?

A. "No spirit that has ever passed to the spirit world is enabled to perceive all the glory and beauty of the eternal laws of God ; but, as they advance in knowledge, they perceive truth clearly, and cannot be impressed falsely. They may have opinions respecting the laws of which they as yet have not perceived clearly ; but in all cases wherein they perceive a law, or attribute of God, they cannot be deceived ; they have no false perception of what to them is already clear. When they communicate to mankind, they generally communicate only what they know to be true. If they be interrogated, they will freely confess if they have given their opinions merely.

"All spirits receive impressions from spirits more developed than themselves, but spirits that have passed to the spirit home cannot be impressed falsely."

Q. By W. M. Davis. Has matter been developed to its ultimate spirit, in the countless worlds by which we are surrounded ; and if so, has there been as high a development of spirit in other worlds as we recognize in Jesus ?

A. "In countless millions of worlds matter has been developed to spirit, and in many, spirit has been so fully developed as to absorb the material body ; but there are many millions of worlds where-

in matter is but slightly developed. In all cases where the spirit has become perfected in matter, there existed at the commencement of the period when the spirit was beginning to overcome matter, one or more spirits of pre-eminent perfection, such as was manifested in Jesus."

Q. By ————. Are there any spirits now in the body in this world, as highly developed as was that of Jesus?

A. "No spirit has ever existed upon the earth who has arrived at the perfect state of development at which Jesus arrived; we have told you the cause of his perfection. All highly developed spirits that have since existed, have looked to Jesus or some other created being, as a mediator between them and the Father, thereby preventing the development of their spiritual attributes by false impressions, which is a condition which will ever prevent perfect development. No false impression ever assisted the development of the spirit."

Q. By W. B. Thomas. Is it possible for us to have manifestations of a physical character, as we think they would be most likely to remove skepticism; if not, shall we be informed of the cause?

A. "We have repeatedly told you it is impossible for us so to operate upon inanimate matter so as to make any physical demonstration. We can only operate through the spirit; we communicate only by impressions; it is impossible for us to become suffi-

ciently dense to operate upon matter only, we can become visible to the outward senses only, in cases wherein we are enabled to envelope the body; we operate chiefly through the magnetic, and not the electric medium. Many spirits are enabled to operate freely through the electric medium."

Q. By James Mott. Are there any spirits sufficiently dense to operate on and move inanimate matter?

A. "Yes, such manifestations have frequently been witnessed by mankind in all ages since their existence upon the earth; and such will continue to be witnessed by the human race for centuries to come, before the spirit existing in the body will be sufficiently developed to require spiritual impressions only."

Q. By James Mott. Are such manifestations any more than what is understood to be magnetic or electric influences?

A. "All such manifestations are produced by spirits who have left the body, operating upon matter through the medium of electricity, which they are enabled to combine in such a manner, as in some cases to overcome a great amount of material structure, as was witnessed by the ancient Jews, in the presence of he who is known as Samson."

Received February 13, in presence of the following named persons, members of the committee.

James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, Oliver Johnson, Rev. Henry D. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Dr. Neidhard, W. M. Davis :

“Man being a two-fold being, possesses within himself the two natures, that of the animal and the spiritual ; his duties therefore are of a two-fold character, that of developing the animal, as well as the spiritual. The development of the spirit, while it exists in the body, is in a measure dependant upon the physical condition. The spirit cannot become as perfectly developed as it is the will of its author it should, if the physical body be in an unhealthy or partially-developed state ; for the body was intended to be the temple wherein the soul for a time must dwell. It is important therefore, that the human family seek to ascertain the physical laws of their being, and that they live in accordance with those laws. They should be fully impressed with the truth respecting their physical organization. They should know that no physical laws can be violated, without their suffering the penalty of that violation. Until all the laws governing the development of the animal man be fully understood and obeyed, perfect spiritual development it is not possible to attain ; we would urge upon you the necessity of living in accordance with the natural laws.

“The principal physical and social evils which oppress the human family, are caused by an ignorance of the natural laws. God in his infinite wis-

dom has bestowed upon the earth natural remedies for all physical evils, seek then to ascertain the true remedies. It is impossible for the human family for many generations to come, to be free from physical suffering. They are not as yet sufficiently enlightened respecting the laws of their being, to avoid all violations of them. It will therefore be impossible for the spirit to become fully developed while it exists in the body.

“Advancement is constantly going on throughout the created universe. After physical suffering decreases, the social condition of the human race will become more harmonious. Much suffering is caused by a want of true knowledge respecting the condition of the spirit after it passes from the body, this ignorance is likewise the cause of want of harmony in the social condition of mankind.

“The knowledge therefore, which we are permitted to convey to the human family respecting the condition of the spirit, will serve to banish from the earth one of the principal causes of social discord, and therefore establish harmony; for all will learn that the unity of the spirit is indispensable to perfect development. When mankind is fully convinced of this fact, they will feel the necessity of cultivating pure love and harmony. We desire to communicate to you upon this subject at a future time. If any now wish to interrogate us, we will endeavor to answer.”

Q. By J. S. Lovering. You told us that all matter is an essence which existed with the power which is termed God: what is that power which is termed God?

A. "We have told you it is impossible for the spirit, even after having existed in the spiritual condition only, to fully understand the perfection and existant condition of that power; therefore it would be impossible for any spirit to describe a power which it cannot fully comprehend. Jesus himself felt this impossibility.

"The spirit constantly advances, and constantly perceives new laws, of which it heretofore was ignorant. All are conscious of the existence of the power termed God, but none comprehend it. It is impossible for the spirit, while existing in the body, to form even a faint conception of this power."

Q. By J. S. Lovering. How and by what power was the spirit bestowed upon man?

A. "The spirit is an intellectual principle, emanating from the Eternal; it is independent of matter, and could not be developed out of it; it therefore was bestowed immediately from the intellectual principle of God, and is therefore a part of his perfect existence. Matter was produced by the power of God, but it is not a part of his intellectual attribute; it was called into being by that power, without being a part of the power itself. Mankind can in a measure comprehend the idea intended to be conveyed, when they observe the creations of their

own intellect, (which, as we have told you is an emanation from the Eternal mind,) in the different mechanical constructions which they have produced; they were brought into existence by the power of the intellect, but cannot be said to be a part of it. By the comparison given, you will be enabled to perceive the different condition of the creation of matter, and the bestowing of the spirit."

Q. By J. S. Lovering. You say matter assumes a condition of greater density. How can matter assume a condition?

A. "We have told you that matter exists by the power of God, and is not intelligent; it can therefore pass from one condition to another, only as it is developed in accordance with the laws which govern it.

"In our former communication, we made use of language such as we supposed would be understood by those to whom we communicated. We did not intend to convey the idea of matter passing from one condition to another by any intellectual power possessed by it. In all cases wherein we are not fully understood, we desire that such questions be asked, as will enable us more fully to explain."

Q. By W. M. Davis. Can spirits bestow positive knowledge in physical laws?

A. "Where spirits can perceive, and where they are enabled to approach spirits still existing in the flesh, they can impress them in truth of existing laws, and can therefore bestow positive knowledge.

All knowledge of spiritual laws is thus obtained. They can in many cases bestow knowledge of physical laws in the same manner."

Q. By Dr. Neidhard. What is the best natural remedies for the cure of physical evils?

A. "The best remedy for both physical and spiritual evils, is the cultivation of perfect love."

Q. By same. What is the best remedy for scarlet fever?

A. "All fevers indicate an improper electric condition of the system. When the skin is highly colored it is an evidence of a surcharged condition, and tendency to pass off the undue portion through it. Any means which will have the effect to assist nature, in her efforts, will be beneficial. Water, being a conductor of the electric fluid, is one of the most effectual remedies."

Received, Feb. 20, in presence of the following named persons, as members of the Committee.

James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, W. M. Davis, George Taber, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, — — —.

"We have told you the social condition of the human family, as well as the development of the spirit, are, in a measure, dependent on the physical condition. Harmony cannot exist in the higher attributes of nature, unless it first be perfected in the lower. This being a law of nature, you perceive the necessity of first understanding the laws which

govern the lower nature, which is that of the animal man. The first and lowest attribute of the spirit, is love to man. This cannot become fully perfected in the physical body while suffering exists. The mind, by continual suffering of the body, is one of the chief causes of exciting selfish propensities in the human family. If mankind desire to advance in spirituality, they must cultivate pure benevolence; they must endeavor to feel for the suffering. All should labor to alleviate the suffering which exists upon the earth. None should regard themselves as excused from the performance of this duty; for, while suffering exists, all must, in a measure, be affected by it. If love to the human race be not cultivated, love to God cannot exist in the fullness which it is the Creator's design it should; for the spirit of man is of God, and is a likeness of him. Man, perceives in his brother man, an image of the Eternal God, therefore if man fails to assist his fellow man, in his spiritual development, he fails to cultivate love to the Father, for in him he perceives the only visible image of the Father. Until the social condition of the human family be rendered more harmonious, perfect love to God cannot exist. The Father has bestowed upon his creatures peculiar instincts and affections, which it is proper all should study to develope. Wherever such conditions exist, as prevents the development of those attributes, the will of God is violated. Upon the

earth is bestowed ample provisions for the most perfect physical and social development. All suffering, be it physical or social, is in violation of the perfect law of God. It is impossible for man to see suffering without being injured thereby.

“Let your aim, therefore, be to assist the advancement of the human family; cease not your efforts, for by thus laboring only can the spirit be perfected. This truth must be deeply impressed upon the minds of men; they must know of a truth, that no violation of the laws of their being, be they either physical, social, or spiritual, can ever be forgiven them; but the suffering produced by such violations must be endured; none can hope to escape.

“Strive, then, to be earnest in your efforts to alleviate suffering. Let none imagine they are not required to earnestly labor. Seek to ascertain wherein the physical and social laws are violated; and assist, as far as it is possible for you to do, to establish a more perfected condition; for by this means alone will the masses be elevated and developed, so that wisdom may be perceived by them. This is the object of our communications to you.”

Q. By C. B. Foster. Are the conditions to-night as favorable as they might be?

A. “No. The Medium is somewhat affected by the doubts of the persons present. She is not aware of the amount of influence other spirits possess over

her. All unharmonious conditions affect the spirit, be they either mental or physical, and prevents our impressing her. A want of mental harmony produces contrary magnetic currents, which affect the brain of the Medium, as well as that of each individual present.

“If the spirit was relieved of the influence of the physical body, it could readily perceive the effects produced by want of harmony, and would instantly be conscious of the presence of an inharmonious mind.”

Q. By James Mott. As belief is not voluntary, how can doubts be removed in a mind open to conviction?

A. “They can be removed only by the constant shining of light. All darkness can only be removed by illumination. The mind cannot, of itself, create the light; therefore it can perceive the truth only as it is made manifest by illumination.”

Q. By James Mott. If the manifestations can be accounted for by physical causes, how can they be ascribed to special spiritual influence.

A. “All manifestations in accordance with physical laws, are produced by physical laws. The manifestations produced by spirits are in accordance with established laws, but they cannot be produced by spirits still existing in the flesh, for the reason that none are sufficiently developed to perceive the existence and power of those laws. If spirits still

existing in the flesh, were perfect in their development, which is a condition impossible for them to attain in their present state of advancement, they could then readily impress each other, as you now perceive we are enabled to impress the Medium present. But all know such power is not possible for them, although many instances of impression being produced by spirits still existing in the flesh, have been frequently witnessed. Yet none have ever been able to impress spirits with the same clearness and rapidity."

Q. By J. S. Lovering. On the meeting of the 6th you told us, that in countless millions of worlds, matter has been developed to spirit. At the last meeting you said, "spirit is an intellectual principle, emanating from the Eternal; it is independent of matter, and cannot be developed out of it." How are we to understand this apparent contradiction?

A. "We intended to communicate the fact, that in other worlds than the one you inhabit, matter has been sufficiently developed to receive the spiritual gift of God, which is the Spirit.

"We cannot perceive the impressions produced upon all the minds present. We therefore communicate to the mind of the medium. We perceive, through her. Although we know the effect which will, eventually be produced by our communications upon the human family, yet we cannot perceive the impressions upon individual spirits, unless we fully

harmonize. Thus, we are not able, at all times, to make ourselves understood by all present."

Q. By James Mott. From what has been told us, we suppose that spirits can know of things that have transpired many ages ago. Can spirits see into the future?

A. "Spirits, as they advance in spiritual perception, know what has already occurred, but they judge only by the effects of established laws, of what will occur in the future. By this means only are they enabled to judge, unless some effect is already in a measure developed; then they are enabled to judge of its fulfilment. Undeveloped spirits, who have but entered the spirit world, are not enabled to know of occurrences which had transpired long before their individual existence."

Q. By James Mott. Is it in accordance with the laws of man's creation, that death should be the result of disease and suffering?

A. "Yes. Death of the animal body is the fullness of the penalty of the violation of the physical laws. But while matter exists in the human body, the spirit, after perfecting its development in the body, will withdraw therefrom, and the matter which had enshrouded it, will again return to the earth from whence it had been derived."

Q. By Mr. S. Collins. Is death the consequence of the fall of our first parents, as taught by some

theologians, or is it in accordance with the laws of our creation ?

A. "Mankind are at the present time in the enjoyment of more knowledge than has ever been enjoyed by them. All death is produced from a want of knowledge, and the consequent violation of law. This only produces what may be properly termed death, for the natural withdrawal of the spirit is not death."

Q. By James Mott. What is it then ?

A. "It is a mere advancement of spiritual condition ; such as is perceptible in the spirit world, in the passing from one degree of development to another. Such changes are experienced by spirits still existing in the flesh, when they pass into the clair-voyant state, as it is termed."

Q. By ———. Is not the movement of the Medium's hand a physical manifestation ?

A. "It is not what is generally understood by physical manifestation. It is produced by an action upon the nervous system, through the electric influence upon the brain. It is similar to any other action of the human body. Physical manifestations, as generally referred to, are the effects of the power which spirits exert, through the electric medium, upon inanimate matter."

Received Feb. 27, in presence of the following named persons, members of the committee.

Joseph S. Lovering, W. M. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas.

“And now, beloved, seeing that all are created by the power of God; that all are the children of his love; see then that pure charity influence you in all your efforts to establish peace on earth, and good will to men.

“None have the power of creating the light, nor yet the darkness, but all are governed by the power of God. None can behold the light, unless the light be already manifest. When the light has dawned within, then can it be clearly perceived. Hatred produces hatred. Love produces love. Seek to enlighten all who are dwelling in darkness, by the power of love, which alone is the true light.

“Condemn not those who err, but seek rather to bring all to the knowledge of the truth, by the power of love. By this means only can the development of the human spirit be promoted. Avoid all uncharitableness. Forgive freely. The Father knows his children’s love.

“The want of pure charity is one of the chief causes of the spirit’s darkness. What availeth it if man demandeth of his fellow man mercy towards each other, and yet his own heart be destitute of mercy? Pity with fervency all who dwell in darkness, and seek to bestow upon others the light which you yourselves have received; for freely to you has it been given, freely bestow it therefore.

“Call none unholy or unclean, for all are the children of one God. None should regard themselves as more worthy than their fellow, or more holy in the Father’s sight. When perfect charity prevails upon the earth, then mankind will dwell together in harmony, and the joys of holy purity will be felt by all. The spirits which exist upon the earth will have absorbed the body ; for then will perfect love, which is the spirit life, be fully developed, and the wisdom of the Father’s love, which is the perfection of wisdom, will be perceived by the human spirit. Then will the kingdom, of which Jesus spoke, be established upon the earth. This period is now rapidly approaching, for the promise is now being fulfilled. The Spirit of the beloved of the Father is now returning, with all his holy angels, in the clouds of heaven, which are now being perceived by the spirits of the human family, in the bright rays of divine truth, which the spirits are permitted to bestow upon spirits now existing in the flesh.”

Q. By Aaron Comfort. What are we to understand by the spirit absorbing the body ?

A. “We refer to the perfect absorption of the affections of the flesh, by the development of the affections of the spirit, which is perfect love to God and man. We mean not the absorption of the material body by the spirit.”

Q. By W. Morris Davis. Do spirits recognize the material body as we do?

A. "Spirits perceive, and are enabled to come in contact with matter through the medium of electricity and the magnetic essence, which is an ethereal condition of matter, which matter spirits are enabled so to combine and pervade as to manifest to the outward senses a perfect resemblance of their physical body. Electricity and the magnetic essence is to the spirits, when pervaded by their intelligence, what the physical body, which is a denser condition of matter, is to the spirits in the flesh."

Q. By W. M. Davis. When man beholds injustice and oppression, extinguishing every ray of hope for the physical and spiritual development of his race: is he to wait the slow cure of time, or may he follow the impulses of his nature, and free his fellows by striking down the oppressor?

A. "Can the adder's sting bring joy? Drink deep of the waters of bitterness, oh man! and learn thou whether sweetness will be perceived and enjoyed by the draught. It is not possible for man to fulfil his duties to his fellow man, and thereby advance in purity and love, by acting in accordance with the impulses of his lower nature. All such action retards the development of the spirit, for in no case is the excessive manifestation of such impulses caused from pure love to the spirit; although sympathy for the suffering may have the power to

excite such impulses, yet it is a want of true knowledge which induces such action.

“If man oppresses his brother man, light and love cannot be increased by the undue exercise of the lower animal propensities and impulses. Hope not, therefore, that light can ever be produced from darkness; but darkness only serves to increase the darkness. Have faith, then, in the power of love, to illuminate the spirit, for by the dispensing of this light only can wrong and suffering be destroyed.

Received March 5, in presence of the following named persons, members of the committee:

James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Collins, W. M. Davis, Emlen Cresson.

“The love and wisdom of the Father is made manifest throughout all his works. If the Father feels only love, how then can vengeance ever be manifested by him towards any portion of his creatures, whom he himself has created.

“Justice in no case demandeth vengeance, but justice must rather be ever in accordance with love. Know, then, that eternal suffering cannot be the portion of any created being, teach all to hope therefore. Seek ever to banish despair from the minds of the human family. Instruct the undeveloped, make plain to them the power of love to

redeem the spirit from all ignorance, and bring them to the knowledge of the purity, love and wisdom of the Eternal God. Jesus taught this truth, he was the bearer of glad tidings of great joy. For as yet the human family dwelt in darkness, they could not perceive the power of love, but ever demanded an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. See ye not that no vengeance nor hatred can be felt by the spirit, for all bear testimony of the truth, that the spirit is of God, and cannot sin. None are so dark that the rays of divine truth cannot enlighten and develop them in the knowledge of God's truth. Pray earnestly, for prayer is the spirit's nourishment. By earnest prayer to the Father, the spirit is developed in the perfect likeness of Him. Oh that the love and wisdom of the almighty Father could be perceived by his creatures. Let praise and rejoicing fill your minds. None need be without hope. For the inheritance of eternal life is the portion of all; fail not to teach all the holy love of God."

Note.—Here the Medium ceased pointing to the card, and passed into a deeper and more advanced state, her eyes were closed, and she commenced speaking as follows:

"Let holy praise fill your hearts. Rejoice with great joy. The eternal God is the fountain of all mercy. Bright and beautiful are the children of light. A halo of holy brightness surrounds all who

are robed in the pure robes of mercy, charity, and love. In them the Father's wisdom and glory is already manifest. No fear, doubt nor hatred throws their mantle of darkness around them, they utter only the tones of rejoicing and praise. Glory to the Father. Peace on earth and the fullness of mercy, charity, and love, to all his creatures.—Return again, remain no longer.”—The last clause is supposed to be addressed to the Medium herself; directing her to return to her former state; when she immediately opened her eyes, and resumed her usual appearance.

Q. By James Mott. Is the doctrine of eternal punishment, as taught by theologians, useful in restraining the ignorant from doing wickedly?

A. “No false doctrine ever assisted the development of the human spirit, but only served to surround it with darkness. A true knowledge of the Father's laws only serves to enlighten in all truth. We have said that all evil, or sin, as it is termed by mankind, is but the effect produced by the want of true light; how then can the extending of darkness serve to produce light, does it not rather add to the darkness? Fear not to teach the true light; for by the knowledge of truth only, can the spirit be relieved from the effects of darkness.”

Q. By ———. Is it just that children, who violate physical laws through ignorance, should be

punished, or that their lives should be shortened because of the disobedience of their parents ?

A. "Justice, and only justice, is evinced throughout all the laws of God : all the violations of law must ever produce suffering, or else how can the joy of perfect harmony be made manifest. Rejoice that perfect wisdom exists with the Father. Seek to study the laws which govern your being, and live in accordance with them ; it is in accordance with the wisdom, justice and love of God, that suffering should be the penalty of violated law."

Note.—Here there was considerable discussion as to the propriety or fitness of the above answer, in the midst of which the Medium commenced again as follows :

"The lightning's flash splinters to atoms the lofty pine ; it also sears the delicate tendrils of the clinging vine, but all the universe is benefited by its mighty power, for it manifests the benevolence as well as the power of God. The most delicate flower withers on the parent stem, because the conditions required for its development did not there exist. Suffering is not punishment. God does not punish, but all suffer ; the spirit may be forced from the body by the effects of discordant influences surrounding it, but this withdrawal is not ordained by God as punishment, but is in all cases the effect of violated law, either physical or social ;

for remember the violation of social laws, as well as physical, has the effect to produce disease and suffering, which violation effects the children of men to the third and fourth generation; remember then no case of physical or social suffering can exist without effecting the happiness of all the human family.

“The most delicate blossom is the first to bend to the blast.”

Q. By James Mott. Is prayer any thing more than sincere desire of our spirits, expressed or unexpressed?

A. “Prayer is the earnest aspiration of the spirit.”

March 12.

Members of the committee present: James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, W. M. Davis, Oliver Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Collins, Mr. and Mrs. W. Brown, ———, Dr. Neidhard, Mr. Joseph Wharton, Mr. E. Cresson.

“Every mind must be convinced of a truth before it can be materially benefited by it. The truths of the spirit life are not such as can convince the mind through the outward senses: faith, therefore, must exist, not from evidence received through the outward, but through the inward or spiritual perceptions. All the higher or spiritual truths are perceived only by the spirit, which is the true man.

All spirits must possess the fullness of faith before they can become perfected. All must feel that an Almighty power exists, and guides and governs the universe of his creation, before they can feel the fullness of love towards that power; and perfect love to God must exist, before the spirit can attain the highest degree of development of which it is capable in the body. To the enlightened and developed mind, the material universe exhibits innumerable evidences of the existence and power of an intelligent author. Endeavor ever to keep the mind clear to perceive the evidences of the existence of God. Perfect faith in the wisdom and love of God, ever induces perfect works of true love and righteousness.

“ When mankind perceive in each other the true image of the Infinite Father, they cease to allow themselves to be absorbed by their individual existence; they learn to look upon all, from the least unto the greatest, as being the children of one God, and possessed of immortal spirits, which are influenced throughout eternity by the state of their existence while in the body; they perceive their duty to their fellow beings, and are earnest in their efforts to assist their advancement. Without faith, mankind cannot be filled with perfect love, they cannot perceive the light of true wisdom. Endeavor to be passive to the reception of spiritual light and truth, that perfect faith may exist in you. Per-

fect faith must be received through the spirit, it cannot be through the outward senses only: the spirit cannot, by the power of reason alone, be made alive in faith. Many instances have existed, of minds deficient in the power of reason, possessing full faith in the highest spiritual truths; they have readily perceived the love and the power of God, and have been enabled to hold free communion with spirits who have passed to the spirit world. The very deficiency in the power of reasoning, causes the mind, in many cases, to be in a passive condition. Endeavor to submit yourselves to the will of God, having faith in his power and love, knowing of a truth, he is able and willing to redeem all his creatures from darkness, and eventually bring all to a knowledge of the fullness of wisdom and truth."

Q. By Mr. J. S. Lovering. Do spirits occupy space?

A. "Spirit is an intelligent principle; that principle has the power of combining matter, such as we have before described to you, and is enabled to pervade that matter; but the intelligent principle alone does not occupy space. Yet no two spirits exist in the same condition, for each is independent of the other. Two minds cannot be so perfectly equal as to have but one existence; each thought is independent, and cannot be absorbed by another thought: thought is an active condition of spirit."

Q. By Mr. Collins. Is there to be a resurrection of the body ?

A. "The physical body is matter only, and is derived from the matter existing in, and surrounding the earth ; it therefore, when the spirit has withdrawn from it, returns again to its original elements ; it in no case ever has been, or ever can be again, reanimated by the spirit after it has wholly withdrawn therefrom."

Q. By J. S. Lovering. Do disembodied spirits possess a positive, absolute and universal knowledge of the laws that govern the material world—of what is called Natural Philosophy—of Chemistry, Electricity, Magnetism : or is their knowledge limited ?

A. "No spirit that has ever passed from the earth, excepting Jesus, possessed a perfect knowledge of all the material laws of God ; they are constantly advancing in their perception of God's laws."

Q. By James Mott. What is the explanation of the Scripture statement, that Christ arose from the dead ?

A. "The material body of Jesus was not reanimated by his spirit, for that would have been in direct violation of the established laws of spirit and matter. He frequently appeared in spirit to his followers, he was strongly attracted to them by their extreme love for him. He pervaded the magnetic combination which he formed in an exact

likeness of his physical body, so that his followers might not doubt his spiritual existence; his body returned again to the earth."

Q. By Oliver Johnson. What is the meaning of Christ's invitation to Thomas to thrust his hand into his side?

A. "Jesus knew it was necessary to convince his followers of his existence; he therefore manifested himself to them in such a manner, as to leave no doubt upon their minds of his individuality. He permitted those who doubted his existence, to perceive him in such a condition as would fully convince them of his being present with them."

Q. By M. A. H. Thomas. What is the meaning of the Holy Ghost?

A. "The Holy Ghost, as it is termed in the Bible, is the impression produced upon the spirit by the inflowing of the spirit of love and truth, which is an emanation from the Eternal God.

"The authors of the different historical accounts given in the Bible, personified this manifestation of the spirit of God. They perceived it to be of God, and yet conceived it to exist independent of him; for they conceived God to exist as a material being; they could not fully perceive his spiritual existence, but were ever prone to conceive of him as existing in a condition separate and distinct from his all-pervading existence. They could not perceive the impression of the spirit from him; they conceived of

him as existing as an all-powerful being, and regarded his spirit, which they termed the Holy Ghost, as an angel sent by him to bear a portion of his spiritual attributes to them, and not as in truth it is, the presence of God himself in man."

Q. By Dr. Neidhard. Can the spirit tell me the nature of the communication received by me on the 25th of January?

A. "It is impossible for spirits to exist in such perfect harmony with all spirits in the flesh, as to be enabled to perceive clearly their thoughts, and the conditions surrounding them. It is impossible for us to communicate in answer to thoughts we cannot perceive."

March 19.

Members of the committee present: James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Thomas, Oliver Johnson, W. M. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Dr. Neidhard, Emlen Cresson, ———.

"We have said faith cannot be received through reason alone. Before mankind can fully appreciate the communications which spirits are permitted to give unto them, they must feel the truth of the spirit life; they must feel fully convinced of the existence of the spirit, and its power to communicate with spirit still existing in the flesh. As it is not possible to feel fully convinced of these truths by reason alone, we would urge upon all to seek to enter into

a passive state of mind, that the truths of the spirit life may be perceived and fully realized ; by entering into a passive condition only, can the spirit perceive clearly the inflowing of the spiritual light.

“ We have given directions to this Circle which we desire should be made public. We have called together a number of persons to witness the reception of these communications, that they may be enabled to state to the world the manner in which they were received, and whether there appeared to be any evidence of deception on the part of the Medium, or in the different members of the Circle. But we do not expect their statements, whatever they may be, to convince the minds of men ; for we know it is impossible for any to be fully convinced of the truths which we communicate, by statements, which may be given respecting the different manifestations that are now being made. We have communicated to you as clearly as it was possible for us, under the circumstances, some important facts respecting the progress and ultimate of the spirit. We have endeavored to impress upon you the necessity of enlightening the spirit in the true light of perfect love, that it may become as fully developed, as it is possible, while in the flesh.

“ We would now call your attention to the condition of the undeveloped in your midst. We have instructed this Circle in the necessity of ascertain-

ing the condition of the undeveloped by whom they are surrounded.

“We desire that they should be earnest in the work to which they are called. God requires of all his intelligent creatures that they be ever active in their efforts to instruct those less developed in the truths of his divine laws. None should dwell in idleness. All should earnestly labor to perfect the human spirit, that this object may be accomplished.

“The first object you should have in view, is that of removing, as far as possible, all cause of physical suffering, that the mind may be clear to perceive truth.

“We desire that all who feel impressed to assist in this work of true benevolence and love, co-operate with this Circle in carrying out the instructions which we will from time to time be directed to give them. Unite earnestly in the cause of human advancement, and ere long many will be brought to the knowledge of God through the light which you will be enabled to shed around them.

“Fear not to enter into the vineyard of the Lord God, for power will be given you from on high. Look only to God and you will be instructed. Acknowledge none as your Lord and Master but the Eternal Father. See that perfect charity influences you.

“Obey the direction we have given you, and all the human family will be benefited thereby.”

Q. By J. S. Lovering. As the body of Jesus was not in the sepulchre, if it was not reanimated by the spirit, where was it?

A. “The body of Jesus was removed from the sepulchre in which it was placed, by one Joseph, who requested Pilate to grant it unto him, which request was granted.

“Some of the historians who wrote respecting the life and teachings of Jesus, recorded the traditions which they had heard respecting the mysterious disappearance of his body as a fact, for they thought it to be true. But at the time of the resurrection of Jesus, as his spiritual appearance was termed, his followers, many of them, knew of the place of his burial.”

Q. By Dr. Neidhard. How can the spirit of the Father of the Medium know any thing respecting the body of Jesus, occurring so long ago, and nothing of any events occurring recently?

A. “All the circumstances reported as having occurred to Jesus, while in the flesh, as also the historical account given of his death and burial, have powerfully influenced the development of the spirits of those who have been, and still are, taught to look upon him as the Son of God, in the sense which is claimed for him by many of his professed followers. This is why all the circumstances of importance

which are recorded, respecting him, are remembered and fully perceived by the spirits after they have passed to the spirit world.

“ We have told you, that all thought which has an influence upon the development of the spirit, is still perceived by it.

“ The historical accounts, which are received as truth by the professed followers of Jesus, have had the effect to produce skepticism in many minds which failed to receive them as truths. This one circumstance of the reported resurrection of the physical body, has had the effect to cause many to doubt all the accounts given of his life and labors from the time of his existence upon the earth, and has had much influence in preventing the development of spirit.”

Q. By James Mott. Does the belief of what appears to be truth to us, remain with the departed spirit ?

A. “ Not without it is truth. As the spirit advances it constantly becomes more and more clear in its perceptions of the laws of God. It therefore gradually discards all false opinions, which were impressed upon it while it was in the flesh. The spirit is not impressed by false opinions ; but it is rather enveloped by them. They are, as a dark mantle, surrounding it ; preventing it, for a time, perceiving perfect truth.”

March 26.

Members of the Committee present :

James Mott, Joseph S. Lovering, Oliver Johnson, W. Morris Davis, Mr. Cresson, W. B. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Collins.

“ The time has now arrived when we desire the publication of the communications we have been enabled to give you. We desire that all the communications which have been received in this Circle, be published to the world, together with a short history of the formation of your Circle, and the different manifestations you have been permitted to witness. We desire that the names of the different individuals who have been at any time considered members of the circle ; as well as those who are now acting as a committee, be published ; and also the manner in which different persons have, at different times, been influenced. We do not desire they should be referred to, other than as members of the Circle. We do not, at the present time, desire their names to be published as Mediums.

“ We desire you to appoint a committee, consisting of two persons, who have been connected with the circle from the first of your meeting together, and two of those who have been acting as members of the committee, to properly arrange the communications for publication.

“ The expenses of the publication are to be borne

by the present Medium. All the profits to be derived from the sale of the work are to be appropriated towards the fulfilling of the mission which has been required of you—that of assisting the advancement of the undeveloped.

“When you again meet together we desire you should meet as an **HARMONIAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**, prepared to do all that is possible for you, to assist the advancement of those who are enshrouded in darkness in your midst.

“Endeavor to interest all who are dwelling in darkness, in the manifestations which are now being made by spirits who have passed to the spirit world. Endeavor to convince them that their spirits are immortal and cannot die. Teach them the perfect love of God. Instruct them in the necessity of their living in accordance with his established laws. Teach them that all violation of law must, of necessity, bring suffering. Endeavor, as far as possible, to alleviate their physical and mental suffering, that their spirits may no longer be oppressed, but that they may be clear to perceive the true light of the Father’s love. We desire that you enter at once upon this work, fearing no evil, but trusting, in faith, that power will be given you to fulfil the mission required of you.”

Q. By W. B. Thomas. Shall we receive communications at the meetings of the Harmonial Benevolent Association?

A. "Yes, when they are required. We do not wish you to meet, expecting to receive communication on all occasions.

"Still, whenever they are required, they will be given you. We will be ever with you, and instruct you in the course you are to pursue. But your object in meeting must not be that of receiving communications alone; you must, of yourselves, reflect upon the requirements of the different cases that are brought to your notice."

Q. By W. B. Thomas. Are the meetings of the association to be public or private?

A. "It is desired that your meetings be public, to all who feel impressed to co-operate with you in your efforts.

"We will give you some directions, which we desire you to observe in your meetings.

"If possible, procure some place for meeting, where you can have a table placed so that the Mediums, together with some members of each Circle may be seated around it; those who are not members should, for a time, occupy the other parts of the room."

Q. By ———. Have I any guardian spirits present, and, if so, who are they?

A. "We have said, all have spirits appointed to watch over and guard them. This is as positive a truth as that all have earthly parents, whose duty it is to instruct and assist them in their advance-

ment. But it is impossible for spirits to give the names of all the spirits who are appointed to watch over and influence spirits still existing in the flesh. Names, as we have before said, are not an attribute of spirit. We cannot perceive names unless we perceive them through the mind of the Medium, or were conscious of them while we existed in the flesh.

“It is wholly impossible for spirits to know the names which all spirits, with whom they harmonize, bore while they existed in the body.”

April 9.

Members of the Committee present :

Oliver Johnson, W. Morris Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. Taber and Mr. Cresson.

“After many centuries of the spirit’s existence in matter, as it is perceived to exist in man, it is still, but in few cases, so fully developed as to make the mind fully conscious of its existence. The mind constantly acts from the impressions produced upon it through the outward senses. It perceives not the interior man while it is constantly dwelling upon the outward conditions which surround the physical body. Unless the mind can be brought into a passive condition, ceasing for a time to be called into action by circumstances acting upon it through the outward perceptions, it cannot perceive

the existence of spirit. It is, therefore, as we have before told you, impossible to convince the human mind of the existence and attributes of spirit through reason alone.

“The spirit itself must convince the mind of its existence, by bringing the mind into harmony with it, which is a condition impossible to the carnal mind. It cannot be in perfect harmony with the spirit while it exists only through the animal nature.

“After the spirit has withdrawn from the body, it perceives clearly, truths which were beyond its conception while it dwelt in the flesh. It then becomes conscious of its power to impress spirit. It perceives the many conditions which surround it while in the body, and prevented its development. If, while it existed in the flesh, it had been able to perceive clearly the laws which governed it, it would have known its power to mingle with spirits, and impress them of its existence and power. If mankind desire to ascertain the laws of spirit, they must cease to exist so completely in the animal nature. They can then be enabled to perceive more clearly the harmonious laws which govern the spirit, and the power of sympathetic attraction; they could also perceive the material medium through which the spirit can have the power to act upon spirit. They could perceive the laws by which spirits can

approach, and act through a material agent upon the physical body.

“Spirits still existing in the flesh have the power to operate upon physical bodies, through the electric medium, in the same manner which they are enabled to act upon it after they withdraw from the flesh. The laws which govern the spirit while dwelling in the body, do not differ materially from those governing it, after it passes from the body. The power of mind over mind, as it is termed, but which is, in reality, the harmonious action of spirit, is now being, in a measure, understood by mankind. It is not possible for all spirits, who have passed to the spirit world, to operate upon inanimate matter through the medium of electricity. Nor is it possible for all those existing in the flesh, to operate upon inanimate matter through that agent. But it is possible for all spirits, both in and out of the flesh, to harmonize with spirits of congenial nature; and impress each other by the power of will.

“It will ever prove impossible for man, by the power of reason, to convince a mind which acts in harmony with the indwelling spirit of the Father, that spirit does not possess power over spirit, to impress it of its presence and its love; for to that spirit the knowledge of the harmony of spirit is ever perceptible. It is conscious of its own existence; and of the existence of the harmonial intellectual existences like unto itself. It is also enabled to

perceive, and willing to acknowledge the laws which influence its development. Be passive, therefore, and endeavor to earnestly investigate the laws which govern your spiritual being."

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The subscribers, members of a Committee of Twelve, appointed by a "Private Circle, for spiritual manifestations," holding their meetings at the residence of Aaron Comfort, in this city, for the purpose of witnessing and giving a candid, unbiased opinion upon the various manifestations and communications that there transpired, Report—

That they attended part, and some of them all, the meetings, from the time of their appointment till their discharge, commencing on the evening of January 30, and ending on the evening of April 9, and that, whilst they have not seen evidence to convince them that the communications received through the Medium, or the different manifestations exhibited, were produced by or through the agency of departed spirits; nevertheless, they are free to

acknowledge that they were of an interesting character ; and that, from the first to the last, they saw no evidence whatever of any attempt on the part of any of the Circle or company, at collusion, deception, or concealment.

WM. M. DAVIS,
C. NEIDHARD,
SIMEON COLLINS,
C. P. COLLINS,
EMLEN CRESSON,
GEORGE TABER,
JAMES MOTT,
JOSEPH S. LOVERING,
WALTER BROWN.

Philada. April 12, 1852.

The undersigned, members of the Committee referred to in the above statement, deem it their duty to certify that, while in their judgment the manifestations in question were not, of themselves, sufficient to demonstrate, beyond all possibility of doubt, that they were produced by disembodied spirits, they were yet of such a character that they can neither see nor imagine how they can be otherwise accounted for. Even if the high character of the Medium were not sufficient to repel all suspicion of collusion or trick, on her part, the communications, (being promptly made, in answer to questions put upon the

spot, by members of the Committee, and of which she could have had no previous knowledge,) were of such a character, and made in such a manner as would seem to render absurd the idea that they were the emanations of her own brain. They purport to have come from departed spirits; and, while we would not affirm that a proposition of so much importance should be admitted as proved, without further evidence, frankly acknowledge that, for ourselves, we can think of no other way to account for them that does not involve improbabilities far greater than those which lie in the way of such a belief.

OLIVER JOHNSON,
WM. B. THOMAS,
E. W. THOMAS.

Philada. May 28, 1852.

ERRATUM.

Those who prepared the introductory history were under a wrong impression respecting the Medium being a Baptist. She entertained many opinions in common with them; such as faith in the ordinance of immersion; the divinity of Jesus; and a state of future rewards and punishments; but was not a *member* of that church.

A P P E N D I X.

It was the intention to have closed this volume with the communications received in the presence of the committee; but having received some communications while the work was in press, which are of interest, they are added in the form of an Appendix.

Communicated, *May* 31, 1852.

“ When we speak to you of the spirit of God, we desire you to understand that we refer to something beyond and superior to that faculty possessed by all the animal creation, which is termed reason. It is also superior to mind. Mind is an active condition of spirit. We now desire you to observe what we are about to communicate. When we say that mind, or rather, thought, is an active condition of spirit, we desire you not to confound the two; for although thought is an active condition of spirit, it is not spirit itself. Spirit is the power which induces action, thought is the active condition. Thought, when its subject is an outward or material object, is a condition produced through a material medium, and is in a degree material. The magnetic essence of which we have before spoken,

—but of which as yet mankind do not understand the true nature,—is a material substance ; but it is the most highly etherealized condition of matter which exists in nature. This fluid surrounds all objects, and is acted upon by them ; it, in its turn, acts upon the brain, and conveys to it an impress of the objects from which it emanates ; we cannot clearly convey to you the correct idea which we desire to impress upon you, on account of the want of correct terms through which to communicate. This essence, as we have termed it, does not emanate alone from material objects, but freely penetrates all matter ; still it bears upon it an impress of all matter, this impression it conveys to the brain, as we have before stated, and thereby acts upon the spirit, which is the inner man. It in return governs the impulses produced, and thereby creates thought. If, therefore, the objects from which this essence emanates be pure, and in harmony with established laws, the thoughts produced act in harmony with the laws of spirit, and produce harmonious and holy sensations. If, on the contrary, it emanates from impure or discordant objects, it fails to reach the spirit, and consequently cannot act upon it ; for the spirit possesses no attribute which can respond to it. It, therefore, passes not beyond the animal nature ; there is not, in consequence, any rapturous sensation experienced ; the animal nature, on account of this excited action, is increased and de-

veloped, but the spirit not having been impressed, does not advance. Thus you perceive the effect produced by the action of unharmonious conditions. We desire you to bear in mind, that thought itself is material, and if it be unholy, or, in other words, unharmonious, and through the medium of sound, or any other medium,—if even only through the power of its own will,—it impresses other minds, its influence is discordant, and, consequently, unholy. Thus you perceive the necessity, if you desire to advance in spiritual development, of seeking only the pure, and, as far as possible, cultivating purity of thought. This we desire you to be fully impressed of.”

Communicated *June 3, 1852.*

“Respecting the laws of thought and reason, we will, if possible, now endeavor to give you some further information. We have said that thought is in a degree material, and that it is an active condition of spirit. In reference to conditions which will exist in the future, and of which men, by the power of reason, are enabled to judge correctly.—When the laws of the physical universe are perceived clearly, mankind are enabled to judge of future events, this is why they are enabled to calculate correctly the time of the revolutions of the planetary system. In this case the mind is under the influence of the truths impressed upon it by electric or

rather magnetic effects, produced by former conditions ; it is not through the magnetic impressions of conditions which have not occurred, for this could not be possible ; a circumstance which has not occurred cannot have a magnetic condition ; but reason cannot act unless it is impressed by a magnetic medium, it therefore must of necessity draw all its conclusions from a magnetic condition which has existed. In some cases spirits are enabled to impress upon spirits existing in the flesh, the knowledge of future events, when they are familiar with the laws governing their developments, for they also judge of the future of the known laws which govern the developments of certain conditions. This power of spirits to impress each other, exists with those who have passed to the spirit home. Those who are advanced in spiritual perception, are enabled to impress those less developed : this is a positive law. Through this means, as we have before said, knowledge is ever flowing from the eternal throne ; thus mankind are ever receiving impressions of truth from spirits who have passed to the higher spheres ; of this, all may be fully convinced, if they reflect upon the facts which are daily occurring in your midst ; laws which have been in existence, and actively operating upon the human family, from the first calling into existence of the physical universe, by the Almighty Father, are not perceived until some mind that exists in a condition

which enables it to be readily impressed, is approached and operated upon by spirits who have passed to the spirit home, and who are enabled to perceive those laws, and impress them of their existence and action. In this manner truths are constantly being imparted to mankind.

“When the laws governing spiritual intercourse are more fully understood, then will mankind be more readily impressed, and knowledge of the laws which govern his physical as well as spiritual development, will be more generally perceived and acted upon. Through this means, spirits are agents employed by the infinite Father, to assist in bringing about the perfection of the human race, and eventually banishing all physical suffering, leaving the spirit free to perceive the harmonious laws which govern it; thus literally fulfilling the promise given—that of the ultimate perfection of man.”

June 14.

“Let the unity of the human race be ever present with you, and influence you in all your intercourse with each other. Let every apparently determined continuance of violation of moral law be regarded as an evidence of moral derangement. Let all restraint imposed upon those who are constantly violating the moral laws, and thereby endangering the safety and happiness of those with whom they are brought in contact, be of a similar

nature to those adopted for the restraint of the mentally deranged ; for this would be in accordance with wisdom, mercy and love. Let the idea of *punishment* be banished from all established laws. This mode of governing the morally deranged, will be eventually adopted by mankind, in the laws which they form for the government of each other. The animal nature of man has not yet become sufficiently developed to overcome the necessity of laws for the government of the morally deranged. We will, at a future time, communicate again to you on this subject."

June 16.

" When we last communicated to you, we promised to give you some further instruction respecting the necessity of a change in the course pursued for the protection of society against the discordant action of the morally deranged. We then stated the impropriety of inflicting restraint as a *punishment*. Benevolence, we have told you, should be the feeling actuating mankind in all their intercourse with each other ; and, until this attribute of the spirit be fully developed, evil will still continue to exist among you. For it is a law of mind that one affection, being active, has the effect to excite action of a similar affection in other spirits with whom they associate. We explained the cause of this effect in a former communication, upon the ma-

teriality of mind. If, then, an active condition of an affection produces action in a similar affection, you will perceive the impossibility of exciting to action any of the higher affections of the mind, by the course heretofore pursued by all human government for the repressing of evil actions. No case has ever existed of the higher affections of spirit being developed from the influence of punishment. When law is violated, it must, of necessity, produce suffering; but as we have before said, *suffering* is not *punishment*.

“ We particularly desire you to act upon this truth; and endeavor, as far as possible, to impress it upon those with whom you are brought in contact in your intercourse with mankind. We have before said, we do not desire you to devote your time in making efforts to convince men of the truth of spiritual intercourse; but rather let your efforts be to instruct in knowledge of the laws which govern the physical and spiritual nature of man, that all may feel the necessity of acting in accordance with those laws. Seek to have them recognized in all the laws framed for the protection of society. Then will have arrived the dawning of that time which has been promised; when JUSTICE, MERCY and LOVE will reign supreme, and the weak and powerful will dwell together in peace.”

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